

Y.S. 1989
deal
Soviet
heav
n has
become
a "Dallas"
to go on
Enron and
all as regu-
Cathy
Wilson and
awaiting a
trip. If
it's scenes
net Union,
many, "I
story will
to this sea-
Leonard
think we'll
finishers
ns. "But,
than any
ing Saudi
their only
So I think
dealing."
n audience
on't think
just I'm all
I Hagman
interney"
-executive
er, a title
Television,
it's mainly
ad to find
me more
as a means
cutive pro-
want to
RI - A
has caught
in the air
this is can-
sist des-
sties in
elling it for
a newspa-
country
ing what
Medusa
the 20th
the book
members,
all cam-
should be
in Ocas
the alre
of the sat

Sino-Soviet agreement announced

PEKING (R) — China and the Soviet Union have agreed on a joint nine-point statement concerning the future of Vietnamese-occupied Kampuchea, the official New China News Agency said Sunday. The main point of disagreement was on the shape of a future Kampuchean administration after the total withdrawal of Vietnam's troops. Both sides agreed however on a need for an "effective control mechanism" to exercise strict supervision of a Vietnamese troop withdrawal, an end to foreign military aid, the maintenance of peace in Kampuchea and conduct of free elections. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will meet Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in China May 15-18, the Soviet news agency TASS reported Sunday. It will be the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announced in Peking Saturday that the summit would be held in mid-May. But the dates were given for the first time by TASS and in Peking by the New China News Agency in a similar announcement.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يوم سياسية
الجزيرة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Israel forecasts Taba pact

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Sunday Israel would settle its Taba border dispute with Egypt within three weeks. Arens told visiting American Jews the two countries had broken a logjam in talks over the Red Sea beach strip which has been an irritant in relations for seven years. "There is every reason to expect that in the negotiations that will take place during the next few days, at the outside two or three weeks I think, everything will get settled to everybody's satisfaction," Arens said. He said he and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid agreed in two telephone conversations over the weekend that two committees would resume negotiations on the price of a luxury hotel and Israeli access to the strip. The Israeli cabinet last week agreed to withdraw from the strip within two weeks of agreement being reached on outstanding issues. Egypt had demanded a specific date for Israel to hand over the 700-metre strip. The Israeli foreign minister said he expected Cairo to agree on compensation for the Israeli owners of the hotel and on who would be responsible for its management.

Volume 14 Number 4004

AMMAN MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1989, JUMADA AL AQIRA 29, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Dinar firms after CBJ move

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian dinar firmed against the dollar Sunday with banks trading in line with Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) rates in a quiet market, dealers said. The CBJ priced the dinar at 560/565 fils to the dollar, compared with 565/570 Saturday when it raised the rate from 493/495 to align them with the market. Dealers said banks, which must now abide by the official rate, were using the CBJ price for customers but the inter-bank market remained very thin. The announcement of the new rate followed a meeting Thursday at the CBJ attended by representatives of all commercial banks and financial institutions operating in the Kingdom. The meeting was called to discuss the rate of exchange of the dinar against foreign currency in the light of the government's earlier decision to carry out a managed floating of the dinar, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The meeting discussed the most effective mea-

sures to bring about stability in prices and to avoid any speculation in the local markets, according to the announcement. It said that the participants pledged to abide by the CBJ regulations concerning the rate of exchange of different currencies in a manner that would ensure the continued inflow of foreign exchange into the Kingdom and agreed that they would all abide by the CBJ's daily exchange rates. Another CBJ announcement said interest on credit facilities in Jordanian dinar for residents offered by all banks operating in the Kingdom was raised by one per cent to become 10 per cent annually. The announcement, carried by the Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that credit facilities and loans offered by banks and other specialised money-lending institutions in the Kingdom will become 10 per cent with effect from Jan. 29.1.89. It said that interest on credit facilities for non-residents was set at 13 per cent, up from 12 per cent.



His Majesty King Hussein with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday (Petra wirephoto)

Al Hussein visits Royal Cemeteries in Baghdad King, Iraqi president review Gulf talks

BAGHDAD (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday discussed Iraq-Iran peace negotiations after eight years of war and implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 precluded by the Iranian side.

The two leaders' talks also focused on collective Arab action, developments in the Palestinian problem, the right of the Palestinians to set up an independent state and self-determination and the situation in Lebanon.

President Hussein later hosted a dinner in honour of the King and the delegation accompanying him. It was attended by senior Iraqi officials. Later, the King presented an old rifle to the Iraqi president. The gift was originally presented

(Continued on page 2)

Qasem briefs British delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Sunday briefed a visiting British parliamentary delegation on dimensions of the Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank, and pointed out that it had contributed to highlighting the Palestinian identity. Qasem said Israel's intransigence was the only obstacle in the way of a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. At a meeting with the delegation at the Foreign Ministry, Qasem praised the strong and friendly relations between Jordan and Britain and voiced satisfac-



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Sunday holds talks with a visiting British parliamentary delegation (Petra photo)

tion over ties between the two countries. Qasem also reviewed the Arab position vis-a-vis a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region. The Arab position "is now clear-cut and solid, following the development in the Palestinian position as voiced in the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council meeting in

Algiers last November," Qasem said. These resolutions, Qasem said, have recognised United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, including Israel's right to exist. The meeting was attended by British Ambassador to Jordan Antony Reeve, and Parliament Secretary General Hanif Kheir. See page 3 for Jordan Times' interview with the British MPs.

Jordan backs Riyadh summit, Egypt on agenda

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has said that Jordan supports the convening of the next regular Arab summit in Saudi Arabia and that there was semi-consensus on including in the summit agenda the reinstatement of Egypt to the summit and the Arab League.

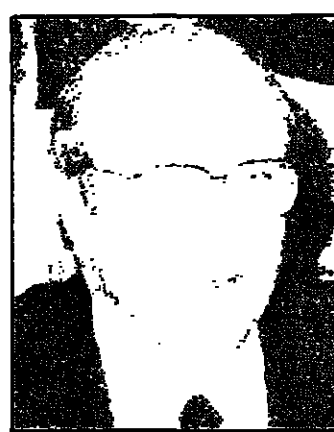
In an interview published Sunday in Kuwait's Al Watan daily, Rifai said His Majesty King Hussein would visit the U.S. for talks with President George Bush on the Middle East situation, the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He did not give a specific date for the visit, but added that His Majesty was involved in intense efforts to overcome inter-Arab differences and to unify Arab ranks. Jordan's relations, cooperation and coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are at its best in the wake of Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank — "a decision that eliminated all sensitivities and suspicions" — Rifai told Al Watan.

Confederation

The prime minister said Jordan and the PLO had not reached any agreement on a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. "We consider that raising the subject of confederation is premature," he said. "However, we recognise that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are unique and have roots in all fields." He said the Jordanian-PLO cooperation has given hopes to the Palestinians living under occupation. On the issue of confederation, Rifai noted that the PLO had adopted a position calling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state before anything else. In reply to a question on a call by the U.S. secretary of state for a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, Rifai noted that the Palestinian state was already there and recognised by more than 100 states.

Tribute to uprising

Rifai paid tribute to the 14-



Zaid Rifai

month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories as a popular revolt against occupation and said it would continue until it achieves all of its objectives. The prime minister reiterated Jordan's call for an international conference on the Middle East attended by the five permanent

members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO. He said Jordan would not accept an international conference under the sponsorship of just the two superpowers "because we do not want the Arab-Israeli conflict to be transformed into a conflict between the two superpowers." The European role in efforts for peace in the Middle East has developed positively, he noted.

Jordan's economy

Rifai said the economic situation in Jordan was good in general and that the Kingdom does not suffer from any problems as a result of the world economic recession. On the contrary, he said, Jordan's economy had registered a growth of three per cent when the Middle East region was suffering from the global economic recession. "The Jordanian economy is an active one that does not suffer from any economic difficulties but from financial ones — that is the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves," he

said. Jordan's foreign debt, he said, is slightly less than the amount of Arab aid the Kingdom was to receive under the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions. Jordan was to receive an annual \$1.2 billion in aid under the resolutions but it received the amount only for one year, he pointed out. He said contacts were under way with the designated Arab donor countries on making up for Jordan's deficit. The subject was discussed at the Arab summit conference in Amman and Algiers, he said. The recent economic measures adopted by the government have proved successful, the prime minister said.

Government reshuffle Rifai said the recent government reshuffle was aimed at changing the positions of some officials with a view giving new colleagues the opportunity of sharing responsibility. He noted that such reshuffles

(Continued on page 2)

Stroessner exiled to Brazil

ASUNCION (R) — Toppled Paraguayan strongman Alfredo Stroessner fled to exile in Brazil Sunday as the new government announced general elections within the next three months and praised the man they had ousted.

Sources at Asuncion's international airport said Stroessner, who ruled the country for 34 years, left aboard a Paraguayan airlines Boeing 707 shortly before 4 p.m. (1900 GMT). His precise destination was not known. A crowd of about 300 cheered as the aircraft carrying Stroessner and his family took off.

Stroessner left for exile a few hours after a Brazilian embassy spokesman said his country had granted residence to the 76-year-old general. Provisional President Andres Rodriguez told Reuters he recognised the merits of Stroessner, who was overthrown in a bloody coup two days earlier.

"We do not deny Stroessner's works of progress in Paraguay, we acknowledge his merits," he said in brief comments made at his army headquarters. Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana earlier told reporters the government would hold elections within 90 days.

"They will be free and democratic and provide equal opportunity for all," Argana said, adding the exact date would be announced in a few days.

Stroessner was arrested after a five-hour battle between rebel and loyalist forces.

Rodriguez was sworn in as provisional president shortly after, promising to restore democracy.

Official figures put casualties in the fighting at 17 dead and 30 injured, including a French citizen and another civilian. Western diplomats estimated the death toll at more than 300. Most casualties were at the barracks of the presidential bodyguard where Stroessner sheltered from a bombardment of tank cannon, mortars and machine guns.

Israeli troops kill Gazan, injure 28 amid protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip shot dead a Palestinian teenager and wounded at least 24 other people during demonstrations Sunday against the killing of two boys the day before.

In the occupied West Bank, troops shot and injured four teenagers in the village of Burgeen when protesters stoned an army patrol, Palestinians said.

Officials at Gaza City's Ahli hospital said troops shot dead 17-year-old Hammad Jamil Ottar during anti-Israeli protests in nearby Sha'ti Palestinian refugee camp.

Staff at Ahli and other Gaza hospitals said they treated 24 Palestinians, including an infant of 2½ years, for gunshot wounds as Palestinians throughout the strip clashed with troops.

Khan Younis, where troops shot dead two Palestinian boys Saturday, closed down during a general strike in response to the killings. The town's refugee camp was placed under military curfew

along with Sha'ti and Jabalya camps, Palestinians said. Students marched in Gaza City and groups of masked, stone-throwing protesters battled soldiers in several Gaza Strip towns and refugee camps, Palestinians said.

Fighting was fiercest in Jabalya camp, the biggest in Gaza, where 17 people were shot and wounded, hospitals reported.

The renewed flare-up of violence in Gaza contradicted claims by Israeli officials that an army clampdown was bringing the uprising under control.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has floated a political plan aimed at ending the uprising, but has continued tough military measures against Palestinian protesters.

Rabin says he sees no contradiction in proposing a political solution while using force to crush demonstrations.

The plan centres on elections in the occupied territories to choose Palestinian representatives for talks with Israel. While not yet

endorsed by the Israeli government, it has already been rejected by Palestinian leaders as too little too late.


Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told visiting American Jewish activists Sunday the government would launch a peace initiative soon.

Staff at Arab Jerusalem's Mokased hospital said Mustapha Yunis, from the West Bank village of Qatanna, died of stab wounds after villagers attacked him Saturday.

The army said he was killed in a feud between rival clans but Palestinian sources said he was an activist slain by alleged collaborators with Israeli authorities.

Jewish settlers occupied two houses in Hebron during the night, claiming Palestinians had thrown petrol bombs at settlers from the buildings, but left peacefully after talks with the army, Israeli radio reported.


Residents staged an impromptu general strike against the settlers' action and troops declared Hebron a closed military zone.



**RAWDAT AL MA'AREF
AL AHLIYEH
COLLEGE AND SCHOOLS**

Announces that registration for kindergarten and mixed elementary stages for the school year 1989 starts as of **Feb. 8, 1989**, daily from 9.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. and from 4.00 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. at their offices in the Housing Bank Complex, Eighth Floor.

Telephones: 689580, 689581, 689582, 689583, 689584
P.O. Box 922840



ARAB BANK LTD. IN THE SPORTS CITY

ARAB BANK HAS THE PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE
OPENING OF ITS NEW OFFICE IN
KING HUSSEIN'S SPORTS CITY area

CUSTOMERS ARE INVITED TO DEAL WITH THE NEW
OFFICES WHICH CAN PROVIDE THEM WITH THE
FOLLOWING SERVICES:

DIRECT	INDIRECT (Thru the Branch)
— OPENING OF ACCOUNTS	— ISSUING CHEQUE BOOKS
— DEPOSITING AND WITHDRAWING CASH	— LETTERS OF CREDIT
— CHEQUE DEPOSITS	— GUARANTEES
— TRAVELLERS CHEQUES	— ISSUING CARDS FOR THE ATM
— CASHING INCOMING TRANSFERS	— COLLECTION BILLS/IN & OUT
— ISSUING MONEY ORDERS	— CREDIT FACILITIES APPLICATIONS
— BILLS/CHEQUES FOR COLLECTION	

Clients who have accounts with any Arab Bank branch
in Jordan can deposit and withdraw money
from any of the offices.

ARAB BANK LIMITED
P.O. Box 8348 Tel: 687951, 687952 Fax: 687953



A Soviet soldier secures camouflage netting on his armoured personnel carrier as his convoy prepares to leave Kabul

Shevardnadze extends Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze extended his stay in Pakistan for critical talks on the future of Afghanistan Sunday, possibly for a meeting with rebel Mujahadeen leaders.

Soviet and Pakistani officials said Shevardnadze, struggling in a last-ditch effort to find a peaceful solution to the bitter and bloody Afghan conflict, would leave for home Monday instead of Sunday evening as previously planned.

They were unable to offer an immediate explanation for the extension and said they did not know if meetings with Mujahadeen leaders were planned.

But a spokesman for one of the seven Pakistan-based Mujahadeen groups said it was possible Shevardnadze would meet rebel leaders.

"We understand that there may be a meeting, but it is not 100 per cent certain," he said.

The spokesman said Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, leader of the seven-party alliance based in the north-west Pakistan city of Peshawar,

had not returned from talks with Mujahadeen groups based in Iran.

"He is the chairman and he would have to be at the meeting," the spokesman said.

Mojaddidi was expected back in Pakistan some time Sunday, but his movements were not confirmed, the spokesman added.

The Soviet minister, who arrived Sunday from Peking, has had talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

In Kabul, Afghan President Najibullah roared defiance at his enemies Sunday, exhorting several thousand armed party workers to defend his government against the rebels now that Soviet troops were leaving Afghanistan.

"God is with us, the people are with us, we cannot lose the war," he told a closely-guarded rally in Kabul. The crowd chanted "Down with imperialism" and brandished thousands of Kalashnikov assault rifles in the air.

"This march today is a demonstration to our enemies that we are stronger than ever," Najibullah said, as giant Ilyushin-76 transport planes took off into the clear winter sky above him, taking home Soviet troops or equipment.

Artillery fire was clearly heard above his 20-minute speech from the direction of Paghman, west of the Afghan capital.

Soviet sources say only a few hundred Soviet soldiers are left in Kabul, most of them guarding the airport.

All are due to leave in the next few days in advance of the Feb. 15 deadline agreed at last April's Geneva talks. Several thousand more are to withdraw from Herat and Shindand in western Afghanistan early this coming week.

Shevardnadze told an airport news conference on his arrival that he was prepared for intensive negotiations on what he called a

difficult and acute problem 10 days before the last Soviet troops were due to leave Afghanistan.

Western diplomats had said before Shevardnadze's arrival that there were high hopes he would bring something new in a bid to make a breakthrough on forging peace in Afghanistan.

The extension of his stay maintained those hopes, but neither Soviet nor Pakistani officials gave any hint of a possible breakthrough.

Relief appeal

Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq has appealed to the United Nations to organise emergency food relief to head off a "terrible disaster" in his war-torn nation, the official Bakhtar news agency reported Sunday.

It quoted a Sharq letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar as saying that war, insecurity and bad weather led to a drop in Afghan food output of more than 50 per cent in 1988.

Bakhtar, in a despatch received in Islamabad, gave no figures,

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak hopes to meet Bush in Tokyo

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak plans to attend the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito and may meet U.S. President George Bush in Tokyo, Egyptian officials said Sunday. "Mubarak would like to see a lot of people in Tokyo and Bush must be at the top of the list," said one official, who declined to be identified. "Funerals are quite useful from this point of view," a Western diplomat said. "It's inconceivable that both men would be in the same town and not make some kind of contact, though I haven't heard about a formal meeting."

S. Yemen to have international dialling

ABU DHABI (R) — South Yemen will set up direct international telephone lines via satellite in May, its communications minister was quoted Sunday as saying. Saleh Abdullah Muthanna told the Abu Dhabi daily Al Itihad that three ground stations linked to satellites, including one of the Arab communications satellite ArabSat, would be used. South Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula which is not yet connected to the international dialling network.

Siad Barre pardons 86 prisoners

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre has pardoned 86 political prisoners from the war-torn north of the country, Radio Mogadishu said Sunday. The detainees, who were not identified, were the first to be freed under an amnesty of political prisoners announced last month by Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Samantar. Forty-five of the prisoners were released from a camp in Hargeisa, the provincial capital of the north, and 41 from Borama on the Ethiopian border, the radio said. Samantar said Friday in Washington that 200 political prisoners were expected to be released within a few weeks as part of his government's economic and political reforms. Somalia began a diplomatic offensive last month to counter allegations of human rights abuses during its efforts to crush the rebel Somali National Movement in the north.

GCC power grid panel to meet in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — The power grid committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will meet in Bahrain Wednesday to discuss bids for the first phase of a electricity project between the six-state political and economic alliance. The Gulf News Agency said Sunday the first stage aimed at linking the capitals of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The second phase would link Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Oil tanker ablaze off Algerian terminal

ALGIERS (R) — Fire broke out on board a Turkish oil tanker off the western Algerian oil terminal of Arzew early Sunday, the official APS news agency reported. The agency said gas leaking from the tanker Rofey caught light. It quoted local firefighting services as saying the blaze was under control, there were no casualties and damage was light.

Mubarak, Cossiga meet in Aswan

CAIRO (AP) — Italian President Francesco Cossiga arrived Sunday in the southern city of Aswan for a short stopover and held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral relations as well as Middle East and African developments, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. MENA said the two presidents immediately started a round of talks which were attended by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti. Cossiga arrived in the winter resort Aswan, 98 kilometres south of Cairo, on the first leg of a tour which will also take him to Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Somalia. MENA said that Cossiga would stop in Cairo in 10 days time at the end of his tour and meet with Mubarak again.

Schlueter to visit Egypt next week

CAIRO (AP) — Poul Schluter, Denmark's prime minister, arrives here next Wednesday on a six-day official visit for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral relations and international issues, the Middle East News Agency reported. MENA said Schluter would discuss with Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials developing bilateral relations as well as the situation in the Middle East and other international issues. It said the Danish prime minister would also visit ancient Egyptian monuments in Cairo and the southern town of Luxor. Danish newspapers said Schluter would be accompanied by a trade delegation.

King, Iraqi leader hold talks

Continued from page 1

to the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein by the late King Faisal I of Iraq. The Iraqi president presented King Hussein with a rifle manufactured in Iraq.

President Hussein and senior Iraqi officials were at hand to receive the King upon his arrival in Baghdad earlier in the day on a two-day visit.

Shortly after arrival, the King visited the Royal Cemeteries at Azamieh and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

The King heard a briefing on the restoration of the cemeteries by Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Abdullah

Fadel.

The King later visited the Martyrs Monument and laid a wreath there. He presented to the monument the Jordanian Al Nahda Medal of the First Order and the Istihsaq Military Medal and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

The King was accompanied by Ramadan and other Iraqi officials.

Upon his departure from Amman King Hussein was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior government officials. Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent prior to the King's departure.

Jordan backs Riyadh summit

Continued from page 1

were part of the life of every government and said that the King finds it suitable from time to time to inject new blood into the government. "All interpretations (of the reshuffle) published abroad are incorrect and far from truth," he said and dismissed suggestions that the reshuffle was part of preparations for a "new phase".

The prime minister called for the mobilisation of all efforts to deal with the root causes of the Palestinian problem and condemned Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

He said a solution of the problem could come only through a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. "Neither the U.S. nor Israel has the right to determine the future of the occupied Arab territories," he said. "All efforts should be focused on ensuring Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and guaranteeing the right of the Palestinian people to set an independent state on their national soil," he said.

Israel's 'options'

The prime minister said if Israel was thinking of annexing the occupied territories, "it will undermine its own existence because half of its residents will be Arabs, posing an issue that jeopardise it... or Israel will have to apply the apartheid policy of South Africa and transform itself into a state similar to South Africa."

There are a few Israeli calls for resettling West Bank Palestinians in Jordan and Gaza, Rifai noted. "It is difficult for Israel to do this since it implies that Israel wage a new war and occupy and withdraw in territories and then withdraw in the whole of Palestine," he said.

"We are tired of new initiatives and we do not want to return to square one after having come a

long way and His Majesty having canvassed international support for the Palestinian cause," Rifai said.

The proposed four-country economic bloc, Rifai said, is the outcome of consultations among Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen and it is open for any Arab country.

The Lebanese situation, Rifai said, is tragic and any solution to the Lebanese crisis requires the agreement of all Lebanese parties. He noted that any Arab effort to settle the Lebanese issue should focus on paving the way for achieving inter-Lebanese agreement, because any solution to the Lebanese problem should emanate from the Lebanese themselves with Arab support.

Rifai praised the European role in the Middle East saying that a unified European role had been crystallised and it is supportive of the PLO and the settlement of the Palestine question as envisaged by the Arab side. He added that the European stand would serve as a factor pressuring Israel and its supporters.

On prospects for an all-out war in the Middle East, Rifai said "We hear voices from time to time saying that Israel might wage a new war to find a way out of its crisis and to change the situation. However, any such war is determined by the Arab ability to deter Israel or to repulse any Israeli offensive."

"Jordan, which has the longest borders with Israel, constitutes the first defence line for the Arab Nation and Jordan's power is power for all the Arabs."

He added that any Arab power capable of deterring Israel would contribute to reaching a peaceful settlement. "Therefore, it is necessary for us to build our own military and economic capabilities, if we want to establish peace rather than war, because the Arab might is the main factor that will force Israel to accept peace."

First French minister in Iran since 1979

TEHRAN (R) — Roland Dumas, the first French minister to set foot in Iran since the revolution in 1979, arrived Sunday on a delicate mission aimed at speeding a return to normal French-Iranian relations.

In talks with Iranian leaders during his 36-hour stay, the French foreign minister will try to repair political and commercial ties which have dwindled in the turbulent decade since the fall of the Shah and the return from French exile of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Dumas's task is complicated by pressure from French human rights activists and France's ruling Socialist Party to confront his hosts with widespread reports of mass executions of opponents.

France and Iran severed diplomatic relations in July 1987 but restored them last June following the release of the remain-

ing French hostages held by Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Another delicate issue is France's role as the main military supplier of Iraq throughout the eight-year Gulf war.

Dumas will learn whether that alliance has jeopardised French efforts to win a share of the lucrative contracts for the rebuilding of Iran's war-shattered economy and infrastructure.

France says it currently supplies only 1.2 per cent of the Iranian imports.

Dumas is not scheduled to meet Khomeini, who plotted his triumphant return to Iran 10 years ago in a villa outside Paris. But he will have talks with other Iranian leaders, including President Ali Khamenei, Parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

Iran is certain to press for a

conclusion to the nagging conflict over a \$1-billion loan made to France in 1975 by the Shah.

France stopped repayments when revolutionary Iran broke a contract linked to the loan to buy uranium from the French company Eurodif. The previous conservative government in Paris repaid \$630 million in 1986, while it was negotiating to free its hostages in Lebanon, but Iran now wants the balance.

One of the former hostages, journalist Jean-Paul Kauffman, added to the moral pressure on Dumas to raise human rights issues shortly before he left for Tehran.

He urged the foreign minister to discover the fate of Annie Esbert, a French nurse married to an Iranian exile who was captured with anti-Khomeini forces near the Iraqi frontier last year. Kauffman also alleged in a

radio interview Friday that Iran was "100 per cent" in control of the fate of the remaining Western hostages in Lebanon.

"If he (Dumas) only comes home with (business) contracts the visit will have been a failure. He should also bring back concrete results concerning human rights," Kauffman said.

The human rights group Amnesty International reported last week that more than 1,000 prisoners, mostly left-wingers, had been shot or hanged in Iran in the past six months.

The French Socialist Party's executive bureau also called on Dumas to raise the execution reports while in Tehran.

The concern was shared in government circles. One senior official said before Dumas's departure that there was a "rise in repression against all types of opponents" in Iran.

Benjedid due in Rabat on landmark visit

RABAT (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid starts a three-day state visit to Morocco Monday, signalling the end of more than a decade of tension over the Western Sahara conflict.

Both sides hope the first state visit between the two states for 20 years will move their relations out of the shadow of the desert war and foreshadow an era of regional cooperation.

King Hassan is preparing a lavish welcome designed to stress a common culture and shared history.

Shortly after Algerian independence in 1962, they fought a brief war over a frontier dispute. For the last 13 years Algeria has given military and political support to Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence for the

Western Sahara.

Benjedid's visit is expected to be followed by a second round of direct talks between the king and Polisario leaders before a summit of all five Maghreb countries — Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania — Feb. 15.

The timing of the three meetings has fuelled speculation that a deal has been reached over Western Sahara. Technically, the dispute is now in the hands of the United Nations which is organising a referendum of self-determination in the area.

The Moroccan press has hailed Benjedid's visit as a turning point in relations. The leftist daily Al Bayane said in a front-page editorial that it represented "the definitive end of the Moroccan-Algerian

separation and the beginning of the elimination of its upbumpy consequences."

Spain ceded most of the Western Sahara to Morocco when it pulled out in 1976. Morocco now occupied more than four-fifths of the barren but mineral-rich area between Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco.

In the past, Rabat accused Algeria of trying to thwart its struggle to regain its territory from colonialist occupiers despite Morocco's support during the eight-year Algerian war of independence against France.

More than once the conflict brought the two neighbours close to all-out war but the pragmatic Benjedid, who came to power in 1979, has worked to

reduce tensions.

Analysts say his priority has been to reform Algeria's inefficient oil-dominated economy and build greater regional cooperation.

The two leaders met on their border in 1983 and in 1987 in an effort to promote a peaceful solution.

The real breakthrough came in May last year when Benjedid agreed to reestablish diplomatic ties without a prior settlement of the Saharan question and apparently increased pressure on Polisario to make concessions.

He received his reward when King Hassan agreed to meet a Polisario delegation in January for the first-ever face-to-face contacts.

Turkish activists seek to end live kidney sales

By Ayse Sarioglu
Reuter

ANKARA — Turkish campaigners say they believe a vast illegal trade exists in Turkey arranging for poor people to sell their kidneys for transplant.

"All conditions of a kidney market are present in Turkey," Mustafa Dursan Ozsaglam, chairman of the Turkish Association of Organ Transplant Patients, told Reuters.

He noted that some newspaper-carrying both kidney-wanted and kidney-for-sale advertisements and asked: "Can one doubt there are intermediaries?"

Ozsaglam demanded a full inquiry. "This monstrous practice which we suspect is taking place on a large scale should be investigated by the state," he said.

The Justice Ministry, spurred by the arrest of an alleged middleman accused of arranging sales of kidneys for transplant at a British hospital, has said it is looking into the charges.

Most of the members of Ozsaglam's private, non-profit organisation have family histories of kidney disease.

One of his aides, Ismail Bektas, who has three sessions a week on a kidney dialysis machine, said a man approached

him two years ago and offered to sell him his kidney.

"Even though I knew it was illegal, I would gladly have made the transaction if I had had the 10 million lira (\$5,300) demanded," Bektas, 24, told Reuters.

"In hospital I have seen men who approach patients and show them blood and tissue test results of unknown donors whose kidneys could be transplanted if they matched. These people were obviously intermediaries," he said.

Ozsaglam's campaign for an inquiry was given added weight in January when the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet quoted two

men as saying they each had a kidney removed at London's private Humana Wellington Hospital, and were paid £2,000 (\$3,500). Tunc Ay Kunter has been charged with being a middleman in the alleged sale of the kidneys. He faces four years in jail if convicted under a 1979 law which bans the sale of live organs and applies to donors, doctors and middlemen.

One way of by-passing the law, which allows live organ transplants between first-degree blood relatives, is by procuring false birth records. News reports say these can be obtained for 50,000 lira (\$27).

The Humana Wellington Hospital denied British press reports that it had paid Turks to give kidneys for transplant. It said Ahmet Koc, one of the men quoted by Hurriyet, signed a consent form before surgery.

Ozsaglam, 44, himself the recipient of a kidney from someone who had died, said he received several threatening telephone calls after he appeared on television to condemn the trade.

"They told me to keep silent or I would be dealt with. I am not afraid. I have dedicated my life to this cause," he said.

Ozsaglam said an estimated 10,000 Turks were awaiting kid-

ney transplants and 50,000 suffered from chronic kidney diseases.

Asked whether some members of his association had bought their kidneys, "I suspect so. But I know better than to ask them because none of them will talk openly."

The senior doctor at Ankara's organ transplant hospital, which performs an average of two kidney transplants a month, said it had received kidney offers for cash but rejected all of them. The doctor, Huseyin Gulay, added: "This is a social and economic problem."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
18:30	Koran
19:00	Programme review
19:45	Children's programmes
17:10	High Mountain Rangers
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	World News
18:20	Arabic series
19:15	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:25	Programme review
22:20	Monday Forum
22:30	Variety show
23:10	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Variety show (cont'd.)
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Le Monde est A Vous
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sport magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:30	Allo Allo
21:00	So you want to stop smoking
21:10	Jack and Mike
22:00	News in English
22:20	Jewel in the Crown
PRAYER TIMES	
05:04	Fajr
06:23	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:50	Dhuhr
14:50	Asr

17:16	Maghreh
18:35	Isha
CHURCHES	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634540.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Teressants Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62341.	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773361.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.	
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822405.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The effect of the cold mass will decrease gradually. Though, frost is expected in the early morning. During the day, it will be sunny and another rise in temperature is expected. Winds	

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53300
Queen Aila Intl. Airport	08-52000
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/1
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musaher Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mulhazzezi	77101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafek	775111/26
Army, Marika	891611/5
Queen Aila Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	380 / 300
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983523
Amal Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	623090/3
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	943402
Traffic Police	636390/1
Public Security Department	656000 / 685111
Overseas Calls	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Amman Municipality	
Complaints (directory assistance)	12
Overseas Calls	17
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101

Pepper (sweet)	500 / 400
Potato	250 / 200
Spinach	170 / 130
Mandarin	360 / 300
Tomatoes	210 / 140
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:20	Sana'a (YH)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
12:15	Baghdad (LA)
12:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:40	Ku

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING, PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONDOLE: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid to convey his condolences to Khreis family over the death of the late Ali Khreis. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of King Hussein, also delegated the director of his office to convey his condolences to Khreis family. (Petra)

KING RECEIVES MITTERRAND'S CABLE: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable of good wishes from the French President Francois Mitterrand, who was flying over the Jordanian airspace. Mitterrand wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

RIFAI RECEIVES SYRIAN CABLE: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday received a cable of good wishes from Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, who was flying over the Jordanian airspace en route to Yemen Arab Republic.

British parties agree on Palestinian rights, visiting MPs say

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After a long period of differing views, Britain's ruling Conservative Party and the opposition Labour Party now see eye-to-eye on the need for a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem based on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, according to two visiting British parliamentarians.

"We are in complete agreement on (the Palestinian) issue... evident in a recent debate on the Palestinian issue held in the House of Commons," said Conservative Member of Parliament (MP) Richard Page Sunday. Page is part of a six-member parliamentary delegation, which has just completed a five-day fact finding visit to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Labourite Roger Scott, another member of the delegation, noted that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had met with the "British conditions," which included acceptance of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of violence.

"We will go back to persuade our government, which doesn't need a lot of persuasion, to encourage Israel to recognise the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," said Scott.

The governments of Britain and the United States have already opened a dialogue on the Middle East, Scott said. Both Scott and Page expressed hope that the European Economic Community (EEC) and the U.S. would persuade Israel to recognise the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to live within secure borders. While recognising that Israel also has the right to secure borders, "this can come about only if Israel is willing to come to (an) international peace conference hosted by the U.N. Security Council permanent members," Scott said.

Both MPs said their recent experience in the occupied territories confirmed that the Palestinian people fully support the PLO and accept the existence of Israel. "Wherever we went there was the acceptance of the state of Israel and that at some time or another, there would be two independent states cooperating together," said Page.

Recent proposals floated by Israeli leaders, including those based on the 1979 Camp David agreements, are not acceptable to the Palestinians, Scott observed, stressing that the Palestinians are staunchly against any plan that falls short of self-determination.

"Camp David is unacceptable because it does not answer the question of a Palestinian state, and nothing less than that will do... the Palestinians now have state and a flag," he said.

The delegation visited several hospitals, camps, professional associations and met with individuals from all strata of the Palestinian society in the occupied territories, but the MPs' request to meet with Israeli officials was turned down by the Israeli government. "They (the Israeli government) found that (such a meeting) was impossible, saying our schedules could not meet," said Page.

Although the delegation did not witness any demonstrations, "we saw the victims of severe brutality," said Scott, citing one particular "horrible" case of an eight-year-old, Mahmoud Bisharat, at Al Itihad hospital in Nabulus. The case was labelled a "mystery accident." When the two parliamentarians saw the boy, "he was so burnt on his hand and face that he looked like he was dunked in a bucket of black paint," said Page.

"According to Mahmoud, and reaffirmed by his mother, he picked up a small silver covered bar, which he thought was a chocolate bar, and the bar exploded," said Scott, adding that they were later shown a small story in the Jerusalem Post which reported that Israel had been using phosphorous bombs.

"The intifada has shown the world that Palestinians have been living under brutal occupation," Scott said.

Page, who was in the region last September, noted that despite the increase in Israeli brutality the intifada in the occupied territories had gained strength, "and the people are more determined."

The MPs said they believe that the intifada has had an effect on the British people, as reflected in the narrowing of differences between their respective parties. Until the intifada, "the parties were slightly pro-Israeli, but as was seen last year, there is no party difference," said Page.

Scott added: "Quite a lot of people in Britain have awakened to the existence of a problem in the occupied territories and that Israel is behaving in an atrocious way."

When they return to England, the members of the delegation have a briefing session with the foreign secretary and will hold a public press conference. In addition there are several projects which the delegation plans to present to the Overseas Development Agency (ODA), including funding for a biscuit factory in Gaza. Civil rights issues under the Israeli occupation rule will also be pursued.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An agricultural exhibition displaying agricultural equipment and products at the Professional Association Complex.
- ★ A computer exhibition displaying a new line of computers with greater performance and new power at Marriott Hotel in Amman.
- ★ The Arab book exhibition that includes books on different topics at Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of Korean photos, books and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ A film entitled "Raising Arizona" which is shown as part of the American Cinema's 1989 film festival at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- ★ A four-day seminar on photography supervised by photographer Francis Chaverou at the French Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture in Arabic on T.V. documentation of Islamic arts and archaeology by Adnan Al Ramahi and Hassan Abu Ghuneim at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

New batch of nurses, midwives to graduate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, thirty seven nurses and forty midwives will receive their degrees from their respective colleges, on Monday Feb. 6, 1989.

The graduation ceremony will be held at the Palace of Culture in Al Hussein Sports City.

The colleges are: Jordan College of Nursing in Amman, Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery and the Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery.

The Jordan College of Nursing in Amman was established in 1952 as a school of midwifery which changed into a college of nursing in 1966, according to the stipulation of law number 68 which outlined the acceptance policy and opened the college to male applicants.

The school of midwifery at the college was initiated for established nurses in 1977 and was later affiliated with the college in 1978.

The Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery was established in 1984 and graduated its first class in 1986.

The Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery was established in 1981 and graduated its

first class in 1986. Duration of study for midwifery is three academic years with intensive training over 27 months.

Duration of study for nursing is four academic years with intensive training over 36 continuous months.

Duration of study for established nurses to acquire a degree in midwifery is 12 continuous months.

Graduates acquire a diploma in midwifery or a diploma in nursing and specialised diploma for established nurses studying midwifery.

Students enrolled in the colleges are considered scholarship students of the Ministry of Health and are provided with a uniform and a monthly salary of JD 40. Students are also provided with housing and food.

In 1989, the graduates from the Jordan College of Nursing will be 34 midwives and 33 nurses; from the Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery, three midwives and two nurses, while from the Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery, three midwives and two nurses.

The graduation ceremony, organised by the Ministry of Health, will include speeches by Lamia Youssef Ahmad, representative of the graduates, Samira Qomog, president of the Jordan College of Nursing, and Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas.



HM Queen Noor

Queen Noor will award degrees to the graduates and Royal prizes for the honour students.

Queen Noor initiated many projects aimed at developing health services in the Kingdom most prominent of which are Health and Communications for Child Survival programme and The Institute for Child Health and Development, both projects of Noor Al Hussein Foundation.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday opens the first agricultural exhibition in Amman (Petra photo)

Regent opens 1st agricultural exhibition

'Cooperation essential for agricultural success'

AMMAN (Petra) — The first agricultural exhibition by the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) opened Sunday at the Professional Association Complex in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Prince Hassan hoped that the exhibition will spur the concerned authorities and associations to set up a permanent agricultural exhibition where professionals and farmers and crop growers can meet and hold dialogues.

Prince Hassan delivered a speech in which he emphasised the importance of modernisation and inter-linking of knowledge in the process of developing the Kingdom's agriculture in all its aspects.

He called for close cooperation among various concerned sectors to make the agricultural process a success. "In our regional meetings and conferences, we normally discuss a rescheduling of our sectoral priorities in a bid to

achieve the maximum benefit and give a real impetus to our development process," Prince Hassan noted.

The Regent urged Jordanian professional associations and institutions to adopt the idea of creating what is called "Applied engineering," thus providing appropriate incentives for that matter "with a view to helping our engineers and our technicians to move into the field and the place of work."

On display at the exhibition are samples of locally produced agricultural and animal farm products, as well as farm equipment. A total of 35 agricultural companies from Jordan and the Arab World are taking part in the three-day exhibition along with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

All industrial premises in Sahab are occupied — Suheimat

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The industrial city in Irbid will be named after His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in accordance with a decision taken by the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Sunday.

The JIEC is in charge of the industrial city, as well as the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) near Amman.

Meanwhile, JIEC Director General Faysal Suheimat announced Sunday that all hangars and buildings built for industrial concerns and factories in SIC have been occupied, and no more space is available for rent or sale there.

It had been expected that the second stage of the SIC would be sufficient for all investors until the year 1991, "but the great demand on facilities and installations by investors and industrialists made this impossible, and the

demand had far exceeded all expectations," Suheimat said.

A total of 154 industrial businesses have already been established at the SIC of which 50 were set up after Aug. 13, 1988, following the government's economic measures designed to boost and stimulate the national industries, Suheimat added.

He said that in the first five weeks of 1989 a total of 13 industrial businesses drew up contracts with the JIEC to take up space for their works at the SIC.

So far, he said, the total investment in SIC is estimated at over JD 70 million — providing employment for more than 4,000 people in various trades and specialisations.

The SIC businesses produce and process food supplies, pharmaceuticals, chemical, plastic, rubber, leather, textile products, furniture, building materials and

other commodities for local consumption and export.

Suheimat said that the JIEC has a number of plots of land provided with basic services and infrastructure that can be let at nominal rates or sold at competitive prices with facilities in payment.

The JIEC, Suheimat added, is currently studying the prospect of building new industrial cities to meet the fast-growing demand by industrial investors.

Suheimat also announced that Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid will accept applications from investors as of April 1989.

The Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid, he explained, has made available hangars, buildings and other installations set up on 30,000-square-metres, and has fully-serviced plots of land for lease to industrialists.

Jordan, Iraq and Egypt to discuss maritime bridge company operations

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A technical committee set up by Ministers of Transport in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt will hold a meeting in Amman Thursday to discuss matters pertaining to the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) and its operations, according to an official announcement here Sunday.

The announcement said that the committee, which groups the under-secretaries of the three ministries, will examine measures to stimulate the company's operations and study plans for the future.

The ministers of transport in Jordan, Egypt and Iraq met in Cairo last December where they discussed means of promoting the company's operations which began in early 1988.

The company's general assembly earlier approved a 1989 budget which includes a total revenue of \$69.761 million and an overall expenditure of \$58.479 million, with a surplus of \$11.281 million.

The company last year transported 600,000 passengers and 40,000 tonnes of goods in addition to 35,000 vehicles aboard ferry boats via the Nweibeh-Aqaba land sea route.

The company was established towards the end of 1987 to promote trade and transportation operations between the three countries.

Meanwhile it was announced here Sunday that a team from the Egyptian Maritime Transportation Corporation will arrive in Amman Monday to discuss matters related to the transportation of passengers between Egypt and Jordan.

The talks, to be conducted with the ministry of transport officials, will tackle issues pertaining to the Aqaba-Nweibeh sea land route.

Government to compensate farmers whose crops were damaged by frost

AMMAN — Nearly 1,000 farmers in the Jordan Valley whose crops sustained severe damage as a result of the frost that has been affecting the country over the past month will receive compensation from the government, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily on Sunday.

The paper said that a meeting

was held at the Ministry of Agriculture to make assessments of the damages before the order will be given for offering compensation.

The meeting was held to review a report submitted by the Director of Agriculture in the Jordan Valley region, Mazen Khasawneh, containing the names of

those that should be compensated, the paper said. It said that damages in the Jordan Valley were estimated at JD 25 million.

Other reports in the local press said that most damages affected vegetables and other crops in the northern valley region and part of the central regions. One report said that in the past two days temperatures in some parts of the valley dropped to minus 6 Celsius.

A report in Al Rai Arabic daily said up to 80 per cent of the banana crop in the valley has been lost and nearly 60 per cent of the potatoes, marrows, tomatoes and eggplants were also damaged.

N. Yemeni companies seek to buy Jordanian products

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A number of companies and organisations in North Yemen have expressed desire to purchase certain Jordanian commodities and industrial products, according to a statement by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman.

It said that the North Yemeni merchants are interested in buying Jordan's plastic and textile products, shoes, furniture, kitchens and wood products.

Accordingly, the Amman Chamber of Industry has circulated the request to Jordanian businesses and factories sounding out their views and requesting that the chamber be supplied with samples of their products to be forwarded to North Yemeni im-

porters to decide on the quantities of products they wish to buy.

The announcement follows last month's meeting in Amman by the joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The committee agreed on a number of measures to boost trade and increase cooperation in educational, agricultural, industrial, scientific and other fields.

In addition, Jordan will organise a national industrial fair in Sana'a and North Yemen will hold a similar fair in Amman during 1989 with products to be sold directly to the public or to the respective governments hosting the fair.

7 die in road accidents during last week of January

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A total of 238 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom in the last week of January 1989, resulting in the death of seven citizens and the injury of 142 others, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department (PSD). The bulletin said that the total number of accidents in the previous week stood at 247, resulting in the death of 12 people

and the injury of 107 others. Careless driving and overtaking at the wrong moment were blamed for most of the accidents.

Meanwhile, a report in the local press Sunday said that four other people were killed in the past two weeks in Amman and other towns. One of the cases resulted from suicide in Karak while the others resulted from road accidents and a fire.

Jordan to attend Islamic Chamber of Commerce talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a general assembly meeting and an executive committee meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry which will open Monday in Abu Dhabi. Participants in the four-day meeting will discuss economic cooperation and ways to increase the volume of trade exchange among Islamic countries.

They will also discuss a Jordanian proposal for promoting the role of specialised federations and creating sectoral economic groupings within the Islamic World.

Jordan's proposal falls for the establishment of specialised federations that would take care of transport operations among Arab and Islamic nations and promote the phosphate, potash and fertilizer industries in the Islamic World.

Ahmad Ghuneim, a member of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce is representing Jordan at the meeting.

The chamber had been set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

European film week begins Feb. 10

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In an attempt to reinforce cultural links between Europe and the Middle East, the delegation of the European Commission and the embassies of the European Community (EC) will launch the second European film festival at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Feb. 10, along with a photograph and painting exhibition of European marketplaces and plazas.

The films to be screened at the festival represent a cross section of the latest European dramatic and comic productions — films that are normally not available at cinemas in Jordan, according to Christian Falkowski, the representative of the EC Commission in Amman.

"The festival presents an opportunity for people to have access to films outside the television domain," Falkowski told an informal gathering of reporters Sunday, attended by the Spanish Ambassador in Amman Ramon Armengod.

Given that the Spanish government is currently holding the presidency of the EC, the festival will start with the Spanish 1984 comedy "Tasio." This movie by Montxo Armendariz portrays the rural upbringing of a coalmaker who takes to poaching soon after his marriage, leading to a cordial relationship with his old enemy, the game keeper.

The Dutch 1977 film "Soldier of Orange" will be shown on Saturday Feb. 11. Directed by Paul Verhoeven, this movie is a screen version of Erik Roelfzema's autobiographical account of the friendship of a

group of young students at Leiden University in 1939. Their carefree days are shattered by the German invasion of the Netherlands, and some flee to London to join the resistance. Others become "traitors." In the midst of the intrigue, Queen Wilhelmina, in exile in Britain, issues special instructions to the hero of the story.

"Ginger and Fred," released in 1985 in Italy, will be shown on Sunday Feb. 12. This comedy by Federico Fellini introduces a mysterious dream world of television, which at times turns into reality with magnificent studio effects. Fellini uses Ginger and Fred, famous top-dancers, as a vehicle for the mystery tour.

Jean-Jacques Annaud's "The Name of the Rose," represents France's contribution to the festival, which will be shown on Feb. 13. This 1986 movie, starring Sean Connery, is based on Umberto Eco's novel on mysterious deaths in a 14th century Benedictine monastery. Brother William and the young novice Adso da Melk learn who is the strange killer on the loose who marks his victims with curious signs. The truth is revealed just as the suspects are about to be burned at the stake.

The United Kingdom's 1987 "A Month in the Country," to be shown Tuesday, Feb. 14, tells a story of two ex-soldiers who return to the remote village of Oxgobly following World War I. One of them becomes fascinated by a mediaeval wall painting which he discovers, the other by the search for the unmarked grave of his 14th century ancestor. Both suffer terrible memories.

The grim vicar is hostile, but his beautiful wife develops a passion as the secret of the mediaeval painting unfolds.

Belgium's 1983 "Benvenuta," to be shown Wednesday Feb. 15, tells the story of a young film maker who persuades a reclusive novelist (Jeanne) living in Ghent, to adapt a previously published, and somewhat scandalous book for filming. That the book is autobiographical becomes increasingly evident as Jeanne recounts the story of a doomed love between an ageing Italian magistrate and a young pianist. "Benvenuta," (Welcome) is directed by Andre Delvaux.

The West German 1985 comedy "Men" (Manner) tells the story of Julius, a Munich advertising executive who discovers that his wife of 12-year, Paula, is having an affair with a graphic artist, Stefan. Disguising his identity, Julius moves in with Stefan and obsessively spies on the ups and downs of the romance. Julius exacts a sort of revenge. The story, directed by Doris Dörrie, teeters precariously between tenderness and violence.

Greece's contribution, "Underground passage," will be shown on the last day, Friday Feb. 17. This Apostolos Doxiadis drama has two story strands which gradually converge. One involves the frustrations, attempted suicide, and secret relationships with an old activist friend from the dictator years, of the wife of the film's central hero, the minister of industrial development. The second is political: A movement, headed by an old friend of the minister,

presses for the closure of a factory making toxic waste in his constituency. A possibility exists that the activist and his uncle may become involved in the matter.

The films, which can be seen free of charge at 8:00 every evening, are subtitled in English. Members of the public are advised to obtain the tickets from the RCC ahead of time.

Furthermore, as a new addition to this year's film festival, the EC delegation has arranged with the Ministry of Education to show documentary films about Europe to school students during the matinees. Those movies, to be shown also at the RCC, will run from Feb. 11 to 18.

The "Town Square of Europe" exhibition, which is open to the public free of charge, features 39 squares, plazas and marketplaces in the 12 EC countries, presented in a series of panels with photographs, water-colour plans and text. The history and development of the town square spans the ages from ancient Greece, through Roman and Mediaeval tradition, the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods, to Neo-Classicism and contemporary urban design.

Familiar architectural subjects, such as the Champs Elysees in Paris and Covent Garden in London, as well as other lesser known centres of community life, reflect the cultural, social and political importance of the town square.

The EC delegation plans to put the exhibition on display at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University in the near future.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1972.

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Looking beyond Jordan

THERE are many valid academic submissions in favour of relaxing the government's grip on private institutions of learning in Jordan. Such views have been amply aired and reviewed on more than one occasion and they all point to the need to give our private schools more breathing space to upgrade their intellectual excellence. Yet there are other considerations that need to be taken in this regard and which appear to be wantonly disregarded by the concerned authorities. These added factors have to do with Jordan's emerging role as a Middle Eastern centre for education in lieu of Lebanon. It is common knowledge now that in view of the continuing crisis in Lebanon, the Middle Eastern countries are looking to Jordan to replace that country as a haven for private schooling. The political and economic environment in the Kingdom has earned high marks for excellence and as conducive to the proliferation of private education free of stagnating bureaucracy and regulation. This is not to mention the enviable climatic conditions in this country that fare very well to educational and intellectual pursuits. In other words, our concerned authorities are respectfully asked to remember that private schooling in Jordan is not catering only to Jordanian educational needs but rather have regional aspirations as well. There are pressing needs therefore to loosen up the tight reins that are being imposed on our private schools, the reins that have been commonly characterised as suffocating and interfering with the regional scope of these schools. For these reasons and purposes, our private institutes of elementary and secondary education must be allowed enough freedom in prescribing their curricula, standard of education, methods of teaching and holidays to meet the requirements of the whole Middle Eastern region. Otherwise, the horizon of our private schools will remain provincial and limited. No one who loves this country and its aspired place and role in the Middle East would want that to happen. The case of liberalising regulations governing the operation of Jordanian private schools is therefore vindicated on more than one score. At least this matter deserves a fresh scrutiny in the light of Jordan's regional educational responsibilities.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THREE mediation efforts are underway now to bring about peace to the troubled Middle East region, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in its editorial Sunday. The paper said that the on-going Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation, the Arab League efforts to settle the Lebanese issue and the U.N. Secretary General's endeavours to revive the peace process between Iraq and Iran are all indicators that the wind of peace and stability is finally blowing towards this region. The uprising which enters its 15th month in a few days time has strengthened the international community's belief that a just and durable peace should be made to dominate the Middle East so that it can contribute towards world peace and security, the paper said. The Arab mediation efforts to end the conflict in Lebanon and the U.N. Secretary General's bids to bring the Iraq and Iran together to discuss peace are good omens for the region and they revive the feeling of optimism in the hearts of millions of people, the paper noted. It said that the world community seems to be truly interested now in the establishment of peace which gives impetus for further progress and development.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the proposed Arab Cooperation Council which will group Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt and Iraq — describing it as an economic bloc intended to enhance the Arab Nation's status among world nations. The projected bloc is intended not as a political alliance but simply as a form of close cooperation and economic integration that can enhance the Arab Nation's economic and social stand, and open the way for unity among Arab states, says Mahmoud Al Rimawi. The writer says that the proclamation of the regional bloc should be paved for through an intensive information campaign to focus light on the benefits of such grouping, the potential which is sought and the far-reaching targets it aims to achieve. Talking about such grouping in the press and the other forms of information media, the writer adds, should be void of emotions, and must rather concentrate on facts and figures, and on concrete benefits and fruits which such close cooperation can yield.

The Israeli authorities are once again resorting to killing children in the occupied Arab territories in further pursuit of barbaric policies against the Palestinian people, thanks to the support the Jewish state enjoys from a superpower, said Al Dustour Arabic daily in an editorial Sunday. The paper referred to the on-going brutal attacks on the Arab children in Palestine as an undeclared sentence for the execution of Arabs as ordered by Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and implemented by Zionist troops. The paper said that the killing of children is an expression of hatred and a racist exercise against the innocent children who are rebelling for their freedom. Condoning Israel's actions and providing it with protection for the atrocities through the umbrella of the U.N. Security Council vetoes, added the paper, can only encourage the Jewish state to go ahead with its present repressive policies against the Palestinian people.

Sawt Al Shaab daily in its Sunday's editorial commended the current favourable atmosphere in the Arab World which it said is marked by cooperation to serve the higher national interest. The paper cited a statement by the Syrian foreign minister in which he paid tribute to the Egyptian leadership as a fruit of inter-Arab endeavours to end differences between Damascus and Cairo. It said that Egypt which is backing Arab causes and serving the higher national interest in word and deed, should be welcomed back into the Arab fold, and must be made to participate in Arab summit meetings where Arab leaders can chart a strategy to protect their nation's interests.

Weekly Political Pulse

Superpower detente — catalyst for Mideast peace

IT APPEARS that the Russian bear has been hibernating during much of the Middle East season even though the rest of the world has been hyper-active in the Arab-Israeli affairs ever since the eruption of the Palestinian uprising in December, 1987. One explanation for this Soviet attitude could be found in the proposition that Moscow has become quite introverted ever since Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power four years ago. Everywhere one looks one sees a constant pattern of Soviet retraction from its previous "commitments" and high profile on the international arena. The first firm signal of this Soviet "shrinkage" came from Afghanistan where President Gorbachev openly and boldly reversed the "expansionist" policies of former Soviet leaders. The rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan has no parallel with Vietnam where the U.S. was also forced to withdraw after many years of sustained military effort. The marked difference between the two situations is too obvious: Vietnam is not near continental U.S. by any stretch of the mind. On the other hand, Afghanistan is right next to the Soviet belly. Yet Moscow decided to cut its losses and ran out. It is very doubtful that the U.S. would have opted for a similar course has it been involved in a nation that is so geographically proximate to its homeland. If there was a singular important story in the post-Gorbachevian policy towards the outside world it is the paramount Soviet decision to totally preoccupy itself with its own internal matters at the expense of all other considerations, including, if necessary, Warsaw Pact affairs. The relaxation of the ties between Moscow and its allies within the Warsaw alliance,

including the reduction of the Soviet military posture in Eastern Europe is but another forceful message from the Soviet Union that there is nothing so important as domestic concerns henceforth. With its economy in shambles and political development in ruins after so many decades of paralysis and stagnation, Soviet President Gorbachev soon felt the faint pulse of the Soviet traditional experiment and decided to act before it was too late.

If the Soviet Union found it in its national interest to withdraw from Afghanistan and elsewhere and to begin the process of regrouping within even the Warsaw alliance, is it surprising then that it has become coy towards the Middle East problems? In view of the high cost of restructuring and revitalising the Soviet economy on the basis of the internationally acclaimed Soviet "perestroika", it is very unlikely that the Soviet Union would allow itself to drift into any "adventurist" policies in the quagmire of the Middle East or accept to maintain the high level of military and economic aid that it had hitherto sustained in the region as well as elsewhere in the developing world.

On top of all the man-made disasters that have befallen the Soviet Union such as the 1987 Chernobyl nuclear accident, there were other untold numbers of disasters — natural and otherwise — that afflicted the country. These ranged from physical earthquakes, that devastated regions like Armenia and Tajikistan, to political quakes that touched some of the southern and western flanks of the USSR, especially ever since the inception of Gorbachev's policy of liberalisation. The emerging picture of the Soviet Union

in the late eighties portrays a country that is beleaguered and vulnerable rather than a bastion nation confidently and resolutely marching on. No wonder then the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the idea of convening an international peace conference, has been moved to the back burner in Moscow and does not figure very prominently on the current Soviet list of priorities. It is therefore natural from the Soviet point of view that all the commotion that is being made internationally to deal head on with the Palestine case has not made many ripples in the Soviet capital. If anything, the Soviet priorities require now the cultivation of Israeli and Jewish connections in order to receive the most favoured nation trade treatment from the Western economic blocs and the relaxation of embargoes on the transfer of high technology to the Eastern Bloc. Seen against this backdrop, Moscow has been the prime mover behind the sense of moderation that is sweeping through the Middle East. Many knowledgeable observers even go to the extent of giving credit to the Soviet Union for the bold peace initiatives recently promulgated by the PLO. In this vein, the Soviet Union is better positioned to deliver the heartland of the Arab World, whereas the U.S. would remain better poised to deliver the Israeli side in any last dramatic chapters of the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is why both sides to the Arab-Israeli conflict have a stake in the continuation of the growing detente between the superpowers. Should Washington-Moscow rapprochement gets thwarted or derailed, the first casualty could very well be the resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Israeli army: A crisis of confidence

By Glenn Frankel

TEL AVIV — The Israeli army, the country's most revered institution, is mired in a crisis of confidence as it gropes to find a way to suppress the nearly 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Some senior officers and many analysts contend that the uprising has interfered with training, damaged morale and threatened to create a generation of reluctant, anxiety-ridden officers and men who could refuse to take the initiative at a shooting war.

The result, they contend, is an army increasingly in conflict not just with the Palestinians but with itself — with the complex riot-control mission it has been assigned, with the elaborate written orders for using force that many soldiers contend are unrealistic, and with the country's civilian leaders who insist that the army produce a military solution to a problem whose roots and essence are political.

A verbal confrontation earlier in January between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and angry reserve members of a paratroop unit in the West Bank city of Nablus summed up for many soldiers just how desperate the situation has become. The reservists complained that they could not accomplish their mission and were forced by circumstances to violate orders and brutalise Palestinians.

"The paratroopers are our elite, and the message they delivered is what a lot of us feel," said Yadin Roman, a Jerusalem magazine editor and reserve deputy brigade commander. "The message is that we are losing and the Palestinians are winning. There's a general feeling that this isn't our job, and we don't know how to do this. Our job is to train for war."

None of the army's methods of riot control appear to be succeeding in reducing the number of violent incidents or Palestinian casualties. Plastic bullets, the purportedly nonlethal ammunition that some commanders hailed as the ultimate solution, have killed 47 Palestinians in the last five months and proven so controversial that some senior officers and legal officials are questioning whether the orders governing their use are legal.

Three weeks ago, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled 15 Palestinians who were said to

be ringleaders of the uprising. It was the largest number of Palestinians to be deported.

Last week, Rabin, told a closed-door session of a parliamentary committee that the deportation measure, one of the harshest used by Israel, generally had proven ineffective.

Given the lack of an effective riot-control tool, the army has alternated in recent weeks between contradictory security tactics, sometimes switching abruptly from harsh measures to softer ones and back again within the same week.

The army reopened all public schools in the West Bank in December but closed them again a few weeks later. It announced it was greatly expanding the pool of soldiers allowed to fire plastic bullets, then issued directives the next weekend sharply limiting use of the bullets.

The Defence Ministry announced it would seek longer prison sentences for agitators and then released from administrative

detention Faisal Hussein, a Palestinian whom Rabin had branded one of the most dangerous operatives in the West Bank.

"There is a growing frustration in the Defence Ministry," said Yaron Ezrahi, a political scientist at Hebrew University. "The minister of defence is trapped in a situation where he defined for himself — and others defined for him — an unachievable solution: to stop the uprising."

Army frustration over its

age the generals were privately warning about then has begun to occur, and that the commanders themselves are far more willing to say so publicly.

The army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, started it two weeks ago when he told a parliamentary committee that although the army might be able to hold down the violence, "there is no such thing as eradicating the uprising because in its essence it expresses the struggle

"The message is that we are losing and the Palestinians are winning. There's a general feeling that this isn't our job, and we don't know how to do this. Our job is to train for war."

assigned role of riot police has been evident from the first weeks of the uprising in December 1987. What has changed now — after over 360 Palestinian and 15 Israeli deaths — is that the dam-

of nationalism."

General Menachem Eitan, in a parting shot as he announced his retirement as head of the army's logistics branch, told Israeli news-

papers: "I am very worried by the level of morality among soldiers. I think we foster a bad mixture of youthful urges with the authority to use force. We are exposing the individual to provocations — and maliciousness surfaces too quickly."

Most of all, there is the frustration of seeing one of the world's most highly rated war machines bogged down in a battle against teen-age stone-throwers.

One of General Shomron's leading aides, Major General Moshe Bar Kochba, reflected this when he recently complained to an Israeli interviewer that in the 1967 Middle East war, "we fought on the same territory and we gained a historic victory."

"It is distressing to compare how then we were able to subdue massive regular armies in a few days while today we have problems in attaining goals," he said.

The longing for the days of simple soldiering and straightforward objectives permeates the entire army — and Israeli society.

"In the Six-Day War and even in the war in Lebanon, people told stories of heroism about our soldiers," said a Jewish philosopher David Hatman. "With the intifada we have not one story of heroism. There's no sense of triumphalism or victory or power. Just the opposite. There's a horrible, helpless feeling."

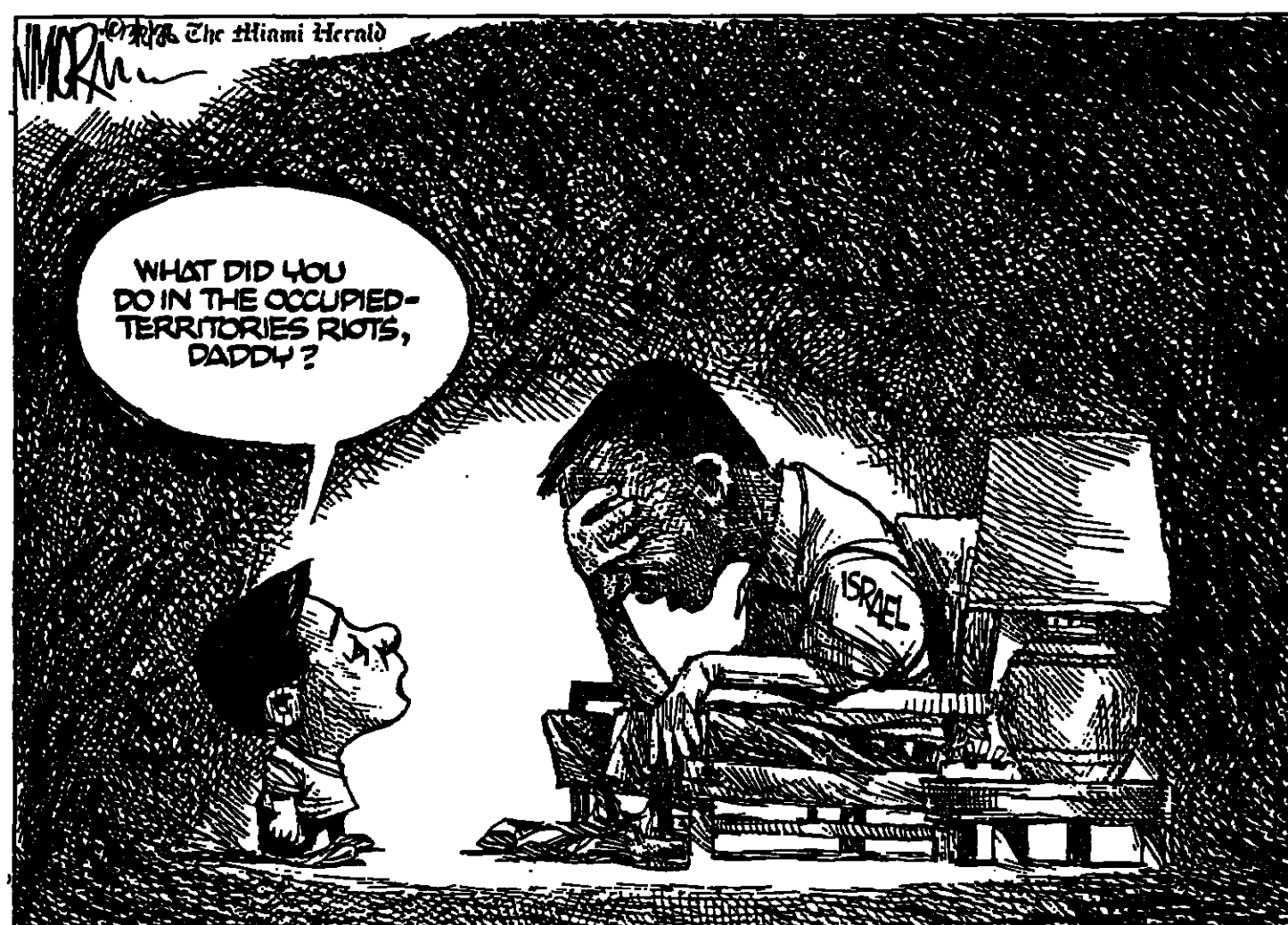
Israeli generals are also caught in a manpower problem. At first, the army largely used regular, frontline units in the hope of achieving an early end to the violence. But as the struggle dragged on, it was forced to send those younger troops back to training camps and bring in middle-age reservists, doubling annual reserve duty from 30 to 60 days.

But it is the older reservists who are the most vocal and resentful and who have raised the most doubts about the army's role. Rabin has promised to cut reserve duty back to 45 days. Analysts say that pledge means again resorting to frontline troops — or else cutting back drastically on the number of soldiers assigned to the occupied territories.

The army's deputy chief of staff, Major General Ehud Barak, hinted at one alternative: the creation of mobile "flying squads" to try to cover more ground with fewer troops. Analysts contend a reduction of the number of soldiers would almost certainly lead to increased casualties as units move from incident to incident.

The other solution is a plan that no one discusses publicly but reportedly could be ready for implementation on short notice, it the cabinet approved it: the withdrawal of the army from main West Bank and Gaza population centres to a perimeter of surrounding roads and hilltops. Government officials contend such a withdrawal could take place only as part of a negotiated agreement providing for local Palestinian autonomy. But others say the senior commanders would like to put the plan into effect unilaterally and immediately.

In the meantime, the army's pain continues. "After the Lebanon war, we suffered from a syndrome where people were unwilling to take the initiative," said Roman, the reserve officer. "It took a long time, but the army finally managed to stamp it out. Now the danger is we are heading right back to that syndrome." — The Washington Post.



Tower nomination becoming an embarrassment

By William Scally
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The nomination of John Tower to be U.S. secretary of defence, controversial from the start, is becoming embarrassing for all sides with charges involving Tower's personal life.

After an intensive inquiry into Tower's close ties with the defence industry, the issue of alleged excessive drinking and womanising has suddenly emerged as a hurdle to his confirmation as Pentagon chief.

There have been no suggestions so far that two new charges said to be related to Tower's personal life will derail his nomination.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said again Friday that President Bush was confident Tower would be confirmed by the Senate.

But the public airing of somewhat lurid charges against the nominee contrasts sharply with the image Bush has been projecting in the White House. Bush, a church-goer and devoted family man, has emphasised high ethical standards since he took

office on January 20.

The charges against Tower also have the potential to embarrass the Senate Armed Services Committee if a new scandal were to erupt after Tower takes over at the defence department.

Tower, a former member of the Senate and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, is a familiar figure in the halls of Congress, where the personal foibles of members are generally known but not talked about. The Senate looks after its own.

Clearly anxious to avoid any later accusations that Tower was shooed in under the Senate's "old boy network", the committee under chairman Sam Nunn has conducted an exhaustive examination.

Most of the questioning has dealt with Tower's close links to the defence industry after he left government. In less than three years his consulting firm earned more than \$750,000 from major defence contractors.

Nunn and other senators remained uneasy about the perception of conflict of interest as the formal hearings ended.

Still, Tower's confirmation has seemed assured until Thursday,

when the questions about consulting fees, contracts and arms yielded to colourful reports about his personal life.

CBS said the charges followed others of alleged indiscretions with women, including a woman from the Eastern bloc. It quoted a White House official as saying all allegations had been investigated and repudiated.

But CBS said it had spoken Thursday with a woman who worked with Tower when he headed a U.S. delegation in Geneva.

The woman, her identity disguised, said: "I personally saw him chase his secretary around the desk, chasing after her, pulling at her skirt. I think he had no control and I think he was there for a good time."

The Washington Post quoted unidentified sources as saying the allegations concerned relatively recent incidents that had previously not been reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It said the incidents reportedly occurred in this country and not in Geneva, where Tower served as strategic arms negotiator for the Reagan administration.

There was no indication of the source of the new charges.

Tower, 63, has not addressed the womanising issue except indirectly in a promise to Nunn not to tolerate sexual harassment and discrimination against women at the Pentagon.

In testimony to the Armed Services Committee, spread over four days, Tower, a portly, diminutive figure, soberly dressed and with dark, slicked-down hair, answered questions with articulate assurance.

In seats behind him as he faced the committee were his two daughters, his first wife — he is twice divorced — and a woman friend.

His 20 years of service as a senator with an abiding interest in military affairs and his stint as arms negotiator gave authority to his replies on military matters.

Living down a reputation of being arrogant and uncompromising, he pledged cooperation and consultation with Congress.

There were no allusions to Tower's personal life during the first two days of public hearings. But Tuesday a Tower foe, conservative activist Paul Weyrich,

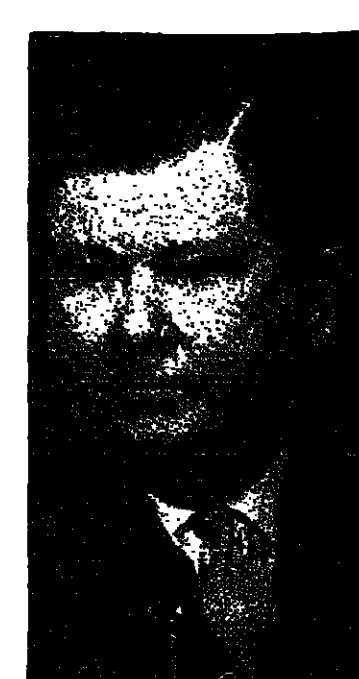
told the committee that over many years he had encountered the nominee in a condition of "a lack of sobriety, as well as with women to whom he was not married."

He added: "I encountered him frequently enough (to the point) that it made an impression."

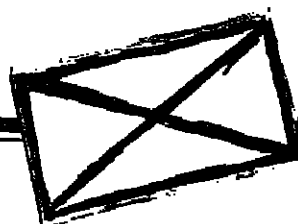
The committee later questioned both Weyrich and Tower separately behind closed doors and got a public statement from Tower that he does not have an alcohol problem and would not tolerate sexual harassment at the Pentagon.

The apparently orchestrated response appeared to have set the matter at rest — until Nunn and senior committee Republican John Warner announced Thursday that a tentatively planned vote on Tower's nomination had been delayed for further investigation into the new charges.

It was the second time Tower had been left dangling while his merits and faults were publicly discussed. Bush, before he took office, made clear he wanted Tower but held off naming him for weeks.



John Tower
The delay prompted expressions of concern that Tower's effectiveness at the Pentagon could be harmed. The new controversy could add to that concern.



To dream in Gaza



Swee Anq and one of the victims

Dr. Swee Anq, veteran of Beirut refugee camps, describes Palestinian courage under Israeli oppression.

AS THE passengers came out of passport control at Ben Gurion airport, they were met by teenage Israeli girls who gave them silk flowers. Mine was a pink rose, bearing a label: "Thank You for visiting us. Hope to see you again soon. From the Ministry of Tourism." If only the pretty Israeli girls knew why I came — would I be greeted with such warmth?

It all began six years ago — in the summer of 1982, when I volunteered my services to the war victims in Lebanon. Until that trip I never knew there were people called Palestinians. In the refugee camps of Lebanon, in Sabra and Shatila, I discovered the truth. Israel, a country which I had loved and respected all my life, had suddenly turned into a ruthless monster. The first child I treated was a victim of the awful cluster bomb. He died, and I thanked God for that. If he lived, he would have no eyes, no face, no legs.

Then came more children — children with burns, fractures, with festering wounds, which left hideous scars. And finally the Sabra and Shatila massacres which transformed the camps into a demolition site punctuated by mass graves.

The stench of decaying human flesh never quite left me, and I developed an obsession for perfumes, hoping that they would blot out that stench from my olfactory lobes. That was my beginning with the Palestinians. That was where it would have ended — if I had not seen another side...

Yes, amid the horrors of destruction, death and decay, life goes on. Four generations of Palestinians have lived in this manner and brought yet more children into the world. They were never sure whether their generation is the generation to see deliverance from this inhuman state, but they always lived in hope, in expectation, that their children, or their children's children would make it. Even when the most brutal fate befell them, they would still believe in God, and that one day His peace and justice would be granted to them. And then they would be like everyone else, happy and free. Meanwhile, they would continue to rebuild their bombed-out homes. Palestinian women would gather their children and feed them with affection if there was a shortage of bread and milk. The Palestine Red Crescent Society, the health institution of the Palestinian people, would go on building and rebuilding their hospitals and clinics — to mend the wounds of war, and to defy the onslaught of further invasions.

I can clearly remember the words of a Palestinian woman. "It is so easy to die. But we have

to live and be strong to carry on, for the sake of the future generations."

So Shatila camp was rebuilt, how many times since 1982, I lost count. Attacks and sieges came and went, so did six harsh Lebanese winters. The wounds of Shatila never quite healed. Yet when the Palestinians in Shatila learned that the Palestinians in Gaza were wounded in the uprising and needed an orthopaedic surgeon, they urged me to leave for Gaza.

Gaza

I arrived at the Gaza checkpoint in late afternoon. Once across the checkpoint, London and Israel seemed worlds away. My first impression of Gaza City was that it was so much like parts of South Lebanon, and the southern suburbs of Beirut. There were barbed wires, armoured patrol cars, and soldiers with machine guns. I felt at home almost at once — at home with the poverty, the curfews and the strikes, at home with the wounded people, shot and beaten up by the Israeli Army. But above all, I was immediately at home with the Palestinians of Gaza, with their kindness and hospitality;

ONE DAY I was operating on a beautiful young Palestinian girl who was shot. I started to think aloud: "This would leave such an ugly scar. I hope her future husband will love her despite this."

The Palestinian male nurse who was helping me with the operation looked at me in complete surprise: "Why do you say that? He will be very proud of her, because she was wounded for Palestine."

with their faith in the goodness of God, their lack of bitterness, their patience and courage in the face of untold misery and persecution.

Gaza measures 40 kilometres by eight, a very narrow strip of land next to the Mediterranean sea. In this area, 650,000 Palestinians found their so-called homes. The bulk of the population lived in camps — the Beach, Brouj, Deir el-Balah, Nuseirat, Maghazi, Jabalia and Rafah being some of them. The population of each camp varies from 10,000 to 50,000 or more. Here, as in Lebanon, the camps were not tents, but rows of small concrete buildings. Each building of a mere two rooms would be home for a family of eight to 10 persons.

In summer, the heat, the smell of human waste, insects, skin diseases plagued the camp inhabitants. In winter, the rain, the bitter cold in homes without heating or hot water added to the misery. Sewage disposal was by septic tanks into open cesspools, some of it carried there by open drains. The road surfaces were extremely uneven, both inside and outside the camps, and when it rained, half of Gaza's roads would be flooded.

As though the squalor was not enough, there was the Occupation. In these very crowded

homes, each family would be huddled together for days and nights on the end during curfews. It was the laws of the Occupation that prevented the Palestinians from improving their environment, that made it illegal for anyone to upgrade their homes. The alleys between the buildings are very narrow, allowing one large person, or two slim ones, to pass simultaneously. Yet the main streets of the camps are widened deliberately so that army patrol cars can drive with ease up and down each camp. And over the past year, military quarters have been built for the soldiers in the middle of the larger camps, so that they can get at anyone in the camp at once.

Since my arrival, the Army has been breaking into the homes and beating up the occupants, often for no reason at all. Just two days ago, eight people were bashed up in their homes and admitted to our hospital. They included children aged six, nine, 10 and 12. Mattresses were ripped apart, furniture was wrecked. Tear-gas canisters were shot into the crowded little homes.

Life in Gaza is life under Occupation. I learned that very quickly. One of the first things I saw was a large gathering of Palestinian women — hundreds, I would say. It was Friday, a day when they were allowed a brief visit to detained relatives. That was Ansar II prison, next to the sea.

There was yet another prison in crowded Gaza, the Gaza Central Jail, where prisoners were put 25 to each cell, often having to sleep on top of each other. To be found with a Palestine flag, to be suspected of opposing the Occupation, would earn a long prison term, never mind actually throwing stones at the Israeli army.

But those detained in these prisons were still luckier than those detained in Ansar III. The latter is in the middle of the desert. Everyone in Gaza knows that the conditions in Ansar III are absolutely inhuman, and no visitors are allowed. Yet nearly every family in Gaza has at least one of its members in prison at any given time.

In the emergency room and the operating theatre of the hospital, I could not escape the Occupation either. Both my patients and my Palestinian colleagues were victims in one way or another of that same Occupation.

The older Palestinians told me how their families were murdered in 1948, and their homes blown up. They would show me pictures of their former homes. But if I went to where these houses were supposed to be, I would only find the supermarkets, car parks, and roads that have been built over them. Having lost their family homes, they had to build them again and again, each time in a different area, only to have the new homes again demolished by the army. Most of my patients were either beaten up by the army, or shot by them. The abbreviation "BBA" — Beaten by Army — appeared in medical records with predictable regular-

ity. Then the patients with gunshot wounds, carried into the emergency room by terrified relatives. Little children of five, six, seven, eight, and nine years, and teenagers of 12, 13 and upwards.

Severe beatings produced nasty soft-tissue injuries, bleeding into the joints and brain, rupture of major ligaments, and bone fractures anywhere — the hand, the forearm, the skull, the ribs, the legs, and so on. I soon accumulated a large pile of X-rays of such injuries. Occasionally, as though to provide some variety, the army would shoot round kids instead of directly at them. This would produce panic, and the kids would flee. They would then climb up walls to get away from the soldiers, who would then resume shooting, forcing them to jump off the walls. These would come in with fractures labelled "Fallen off wall while trying to escape from the army."

Then there were Palestinians with nasty high-voltage burns sustained as a result of being forced to take down Palestine flags hanging on electrical cables, and those with flash burns sustained when ordered by the army to remove burning tyres from the roads.

Rubber bullets

Gunshot wounds were of different types, and varied from time to time. The most commonly used bullets were the plastic bullets. They were the best of the whole lot, unless shot at close range, or into the abdomen where they would kill by perforating vital viscera, or the eye, or blood vessels — they cause unpleasant, but non-fatal wounds.

Then there are different kinds of rubber bullets — at least three to my knowledge. First, the conventional rubber bullets used for riot control in most parts of the world — but seldom used by the Israeli army nowadays. They tend to prefer some kind of modification where a heavier piece of metal is coated in rubber; therefore inflicting greater pain and tissue damage.

The third kind of rubber bullet is actually euphemism for a metal ball approximately one centimetre in diameter and coated with a thin layer of rubber, perhaps one millimetre or less.

This variety is vicious and produces perforations in the skulls and severe brain damage, comminuted fractures of limb bones, and extensive soft-tissue injuries. My first encounter with this kind of rubber bullet was on January 2, 1989. A kid was brought in to the emergency room with the story of having been hit by a rubber bullet. The X-rays revealed a large round metal object embedded in the area below the eye. The patient lost his eye as a result of this injury.

Following that was a young girl, with a penetrating injury of the cranium. Brain was oozing out and X-rays confirmed a metallic sphere embedded in the brain and the fracture in the skull created at the point where the bullet penetrated it. Her mother was hit by the same kind of bullet and had an open fracture of the

wrist.

Dum-dum bullets

Of course, when the army meant business — they would use a nine-millimetre steel-capped bullet, or some kind of dum-dum bullet, and my old friends from Lebanon, the lethal high velocity M16 bullets. On a good day, our hospital would have less than 10 "BBA" and gunshot cases, but on a bad day, the wards would fill up very quickly, and the matrons would have to put up extra mattresses for the wounded.

The worst day happened before my arrival. The army attacked a school, and the hospital had over 60 severe casualties.

Dealing with wounds and fractures is just one aspect — perhaps the technical and straightforward aspect. Dealing with wounded patients who are threatened with arrest is the real difficulty. This is especially so since I have examined and treated various people released from prison. They were brutally beaten in prison, and their description of the treatment they were subjected to was beyond the endurance of the fit and healthy, not to mention the wounded.

One evening I operated on a young man shot by a 9mm bullet. This went through his shoulder blowing it apart to multiple bits.

• Dr. Ang was seconded to the United Nations Relief & Works Agency by the British charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) of 29 Enford Street, London W1 (01723 7766). A book by Dr. Ang, From Beirut to Jerusalem is to be published by Grafton Books on February 9.

If the shot had been fired closer to the midline it would have blown his neck apart. Scarcely had I completed his operation when the army came into the recovery room of the operating theatre waiting to question him. My anaesthetist colleague, a Norwegian doctor, turned them away.

A few hours later the army returned and wanted to go upstairs to question the man. I stopped them. They came back a third time, and 10 fully-armed members of the army went into the ward in the small hours of the morning and interrogated the patient. I felt helpless when this happened — obviously no one could hold up 10 men armed with M16 machine-guns.

They returned a fourth time with the view of abducting him. Fortunately the patient's relatives had taken him away before the army arrived. From the surgical aspect, his shoulder would probably be a disaster due to the severity of the injury as well as his inability to complete his treatment. I could only pray for his safety, and hope that his shoulder would heal.

I could only take comfort in the wisdom of Pare, the father of modern surgery: "I dress the wounds, only God can heal them." But the terror in my patient's face I would always remember — a wounded person who had just escaped being shot dead, facing arrest.

To this day, I have never found out what crime my patient had committed, and why he was denied the right to be treated properly. Certainly the mighty army could wait a day or two for his condition to stabilise before getting at him in this way. Yet he was just one of many who were threatened with arrest while re-

ceiving hospital treatment. There are two parties who are victimised in this process. The obvious victim is the patient, but the not-so-obvious victim is the medical team. I felt as though the army was forcing me to violate medical ethics. It was not only denying my patient the right to be treated; it was also denying me the right to treat my patient.

The irony was that the impoverished people of Gaza were paying taxes to "the government" so that the Occupation could continue. They helped pay the salaries of the soldiers who shot and beat them, and the prisons that robbed them of their freedom, and the military apparatus that continued to stifle and crush them.

It was small wonder that the Palestinians demanded an end to the Occupation, and the "intifada" or "uprising" carried on without any hint of abeyance after one year, after nearly 400 Palestinians were killed, and thousands injured.

Palestinians everywhere told me: "It is impossible to stop the intifada. We will just have to carry on till we get our rights back." Palestinians invited me into their homes, where they would show me items made in the colours of the Palestine flag. Knitted woollen jumpers, embroidery, any common item would become a channel for expression of their longing for freedom.

Ugly scars

One day I was operating on a beautiful young Palestinian girl who was shot. I started to think aloud: "This would leave such an ugly scar. I hope her future husband will love her despite this."

The Palestinian male nurse who was helping me with the operation looked at me in complete surprise: "Why do you say that? He will be very proud of her, because she was wounded for Palestine."

A 13-year-old boy came out of prison with his wrist broken by the army. We straightened his broken bones and put him in a plaster of Paris cast, but when he was ready to leave the hospital, I learned that the army had gone to his home and threatened his father. They would get the old man if his son did not show up. My patient bravely went home to face re-arrest. When I look at the courage of the Palestinians, I know that the Occupation will have to end soon.

Christmas and New Year passed without my noticing — except perhaps for an bright little event on Christmas morning. Maron delivered a breach on the couch in the emergency room. The mother had arrived in labour, and delivered almost on the spot. It was a healthy baby boy despite all the possible risks associated with breech delivery. For a moment, everyone in the emergency room was happy, doctors, nurses and patients. This was short-lived, for the casualties of the intifada soon started to pour in again. It was yet one more day of beatings and shootings. Another night of curfew, where Palestinian children slept in those cold and damp camp houses, wondering if the next day would see them bashed up and arrested. Another night where Palestinian women cried when they remembered those who were dead, imprisoned or wounded.

But strangely I dreamed of something wonderful, of people celebrating in the streets of Gaza. There were flowers and flags



The rule of might!

everywhere, and laughter and tears of joy. The soldiers were gone...

Getting rid of the Occupation is not merely a matter of pride and dignity. In real life, it means running one's own country, building a sewage system, increasing hospital beds ten-fold, repairing the roads. It means opening the gates of the prisons so that those who have resisted the Occupation can be re-united with their loved ones, demolishing the camps and

building proper homes for the people. It means labelling Palestinian goods with the label "Made and Produced in Palestine," an end to refugee identity card, carrying a Palestine passport. It means no curfews, no arbitrary arrests, no beatings. It also means the right of return for those Palestinians exiled in other Arab countries. It means a home for the people of Sabra and Shatila. It means flying the Palestine flag freely.

SOME PEOPLE DON'T TAKE STUDYING BY MAIL SERIOUSLY

Some people believe that you cannot get a good education through Distance Education. Some people believe that because you are getting your education through a correspondence school that you don't have to work for your diploma or your degree. Some people confuse "phony degree mills" with legitimate Distance Education Schools. If you are one of these people, don't read any further. ICS is looking for people who take their education SERIOUSLY, whether attending a traditional college or studying by mail. We are looking for people who will apply themselves and work hard to get the full value of the training that ICS offers. Diplomas and Degrees are issued upon successful completion of a course accredited by the National Home Study Council... your guarantee of a quality education. If you take your education seriously and want to train for a new career or improve your job skills for advancement on your present job, ICS may have the right career training for you. Choose from 45 career courses listed below. Select the one career field you would like to train for and indicate that choice in the coupon below. Cut out this ad and mail it to ICS TODAY. We will send you a detailed course outline and tuition schedule by return Air Mail. There is no obligation.

SEND FOR FREE FACTS — NO OBLIGATION	
ASSOCIATE IN SPECIALIZED BUSINESS DEGREE PROGRAMS 01 Accounting 02 Business Management 03 Business Management with option in Marketing 04 Business Management with option in Finance 05 Business Management with option in Sales 06 Electronics Technology 07 Civil Engineering Tech 08 Mechanical Eng. Tech 09 Electrical Eng. Tech 10 Practical English	CAREER DIPLOMA PROGRAMS 11 Auto Mechanics 12 Bookkeeping 13 Catering/Gourmet Cooking 14 Medical Dental Office Asst. 15 Microcomputer Repair 16 Hotel Restaurant Mgmt. 17 Air Conditioning & Refrigeration 18 Interior Decorating 19 Fashion Merchandising 20 Motorcycle Repair 21 Surveying & Mapping 22 Wildlife Conservation 23 Veterinary Assistant 24 TV Radio Servicing 25 Building Trades 26 General Business 27 Practical English
ASSOCIATE IN SPECIALIZED TECHNICIAN DEGREE PROGRAMS 28 Computer Programming 29 U.S. High School Diploma 30 Medical Dental Office Asst. 31 Secretary 32 Electronic 33 Police Sciences 34 Art 35 Dental Secretary 36 Travel Agent 37 VCR Repair 38 Child Day Care 39 Drafting 40 Photography 41 Journalism/Short Story Writing 42 Dressmaking	

Get FREE Information — MAIL ENTIRE AD TODAY
 Write the number of the one career that interests you.
 PLEASE PRINT
 NAME _____ AGE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE _____
 COUNTRY _____ PHONE () _____

<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>NICO</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 675571</p> <p>NUJUM</p> <p>WELCOME TO 18</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>We Are All Thieves My Dear</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>
--	--	---

<p>JORDAN MARKET PLACE</p>	<p>STUDIO HAIG</p> <p>Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service</p> <p>Develop your colour film at our shop and get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JUMBO photo size 30% larger Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm <p>Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Shmeisani - Phone: 604042 Swedish tel: 823891</p>	<p>RESTAURANT CHINA</p> <p>The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan</p> <p>1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahiyyah Girls School</p> <p>Take away is available</p> <p>Open Daily: 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30-Midnight Tel: 638968</p>	<p>慕堂餐廳</p> <p>MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant</p> <p>The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman. Chinese Flaming pot is available</p> <p>Take away available</p> <p>Open daily: 12:00 - 15:30 18:00 - 23:30</p> <p>Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge Amman, Jordan Tel: 661922</p>	<p>CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT</p> <p>Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket</p> <p>Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only</p> <p>Tel: 818214</p> <p>Come and taste our specialties</p> <p>Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight</p>	<p>CHINESE RESTAURANT</p> <p>TAIWAN TOURISMO</p> <p>Authentic Chinese Food</p> <p>Korean Bar-B-Q Charcoal Flaming Pot</p> <p>Take-away service</p> <p>Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight</p> <p>Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Akliah Hospital Tel: 641093</p>	<p>Kashmir Restaurant</p> <p>FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT</p> <p>Special Executive Lunches available</p> <p>Take away service available</p> <p>Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm 7:30-11:30 pm</p> <p>After the Holiday Inn hotel Towards 3rd circle</p> <p>Tel: 659519 659520</p>
-----------------------------------	---	--	---	--	--	--

For all your:

- Packing, Air Freight Forwarding, Customs Clearance, Door-to-door Service, Ticketing and Reservation needs.

please call:

AMIN KAWAR & SONS

Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street
 Shmeisani
 P.O. Box 7806
 Amman, Jordan
 Tel. 644676, 604696

To advertise in this section

Call 667171-6
 670141-4
 ext. 223

Perez proposes massive Third World debt reduction scheme

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela's new president Carlos Andres Perez Saturday proposed a plan under which the industrial world would write off at least half of Latin America's huge debt.

Perez, inaugurated Thursday at a ceremony attended by foreign leaders, also proposed at a news conference that African loans be written off and added that President Bush should play a key role in a plan to reduce Third World debt.

He said leading Latin American debtors, known as the Group of Eight, should meet Bush and afterward join other Third World debtors to agree in a conference on a common position to ease the crushing burden of the developing world's \$1.3 trillion debt.

"I am convinced that if in this year of 1989 we do not find a solution to the debt problem then democracy in Latin America will be gravely threatened by destabilisation," he said. "The conditions in Africa are more dramatic."

Speaking to more than 100 foreign journalists, he also prop-

osed a Western hemisphere summit to draw up and sign a treaty to tackle burgeoning drug trafficking, which he said had become the most threatening international crime.

Perez said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), to which Venezuela belongs, should not make the mistake of trying to abruptly raise the price of crude oil again because that could lead to more competition from independent producers.

He said consuming and producing nations should agree on a stable pricing arrangement.

Perez, a 66-year-old centre-left politician with a populist flair, was president of Venezuela from 1974-1979, when he gained a high international profile for his activism in OPEC and on Central American issues.

He expressed confidence that

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Francois Mitterrand and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez would work at the next European Community (EC) summit for a just rescheduling of Latin American debt.

He said creditors should forgive African debt, or at least reduce payments to a symbolic level.

He suggested they reduce the value of Latin American debt to between 40 and 50 per cent of its value, pointing out it had already been discounted by an average of 70 per cent on secondary markets.

He said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or World Bank should play a central role in negotiating the reduction in Latin America's debt repayments with private foreign banks.

An international agency could then compensate the banks with the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), a basket of five currencies — the dollar, yen, mark, sterling and French franc.

An international agency would take responsibility for the debt

and charge only about half the interest now being collected, a level he said debtor countries could cope with.

He said his impression, from talks last month with IMF Director-General Michel Camdessus, was that the fund has begun to recognise the need for economic growth in Latin America and this could not be divorced from the debt payments question.

To push forward the plan, he said the Group of Eight Latin American nations, which hold \$335 billion of the region's debt, sought to first meet with Bush and then at a high level with governments of other industrialised nations.

"We of course will not be dogmatic — we don't aim to impose our solution," he said. "We are very open to discuss other possible solutions."

The Group of Eight includes Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay. The eighth member, Panama, was suspended when General Manuel Antonio Noriega rejected an order to resign by a civilian president.

Kremlin blasts businesses for hiking prices of consumer goods

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet government, in another attempt to ease chronic shortages of consumer goods, has announced a crackdown on state-owned businesses that have raised prices and reduced production of inexpensive products.

The council of ministers, or Soviet cabinet, said it would require businesses to produce a minimum amount of inexpensive consumer goods and would ban price hikes for items that change little, the TASS news agency reported.

Price increases for "new and fashionable goods" may not exceed 15 per cent, the council decided.

The decision had been approved in early January, council of ministers spokesman Lev Voznesensky said in a telephone interview. It did not affect the burgeoning cooperative movement that has arisen under President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Gorbachev has said tackling shortages of consumer goods and good is a top priority of his economic restructuring prog-

ramme. However, because of Gorbachev's drive to make each factory pay its own way, Soviet managers are in effect encouraged to seek the highest markup they can on their products, and even to curtail manufacture of cheap goods that bring little return.

So-called "deficits" in the consumer sector have plagued the country for years, but Soviets complain that under Gorbachev, new shortages have appeared, specifically of inexpensive consumer goods.

One of the most talked about examples is soap. Soviets have flooded the official press with angry letters and grumbled privately that inexpensive soap has disappeared from store shelves while expensive bars are plentiful.

"I am writing this letter out of happiness that my husband (according to a waiting list) received one bar of household soap and a tube of 'Zefir' toothpaste," one woman wrote sarcastically Dec. 28 in the labour daily Trud. "I will take care of it to make sure

it lasts long, because it's unknown when such good fortune will visit me again."

Many Soviets complain they cannot afford the costly alternatives on their meagre salaries, which average about 200 roubles (\$333) monthly. They even charge that factory managers are withholding consumer goods from the stores to try to sabotage Gorbachev's economic reforms.

Nikolai Belov, deputy director of the State Committee on Statistics, in October called the substitution of cheap goods with expensive alternatives "hidden price hikes" and said that along with increases in wages, inflation had developed. He did not give a figure for inflation.

Another decision of the council of ministers pertained to cooperatives, a movement that has burgeoned under Gorbachev.

TASS said cooperatives will not be allowed to buy "non-scarce foods and non-edible commodities," presumably from the state, but that any products made from them should be sold at prices fixed for state-run retail shops.

Greek black economy helps boost booming public deficit

ATHENS (R) — Most Greeks cite the national economy as their major worry but bankers and economists say many people benefit from the very problems they resent.

A thriving black economy, rampant tax avoidance and an unofficial system of patronage in the public service sector are all pushing the public sector deficit higher, said a senior banker.

An economist said: "They may list the economy as their major worry but I don't believe they mean it. Most people have never had it so good." He noted that both savings and consumption increased during a two-year austerity programme when wages were frozen.

National Economy Minister Panayiotis Roumeliotis admits the public sector deficit is a major problem and links it to tax avoidance and the underground economy.

The black economy is estimated conservatively at around 30 per cent of gross domestic

product (GDP). It is an integral part of life — everybody seems involved from landlords and plumbers to beauticians and translators.

During the austerity programme launched in late 1985 to cut the public sector and current account deficits, foreign debt and inflation, the black economy acted as a useful safety valve.

While wages and salaries were frozen, it allowed public sector and other workers to "moonlight" to boost their incomes.

Tax payers have also become more proficient at avoiding taxes. Revenue from value added tax fell 12 per cent in the second year after its introduction in 1987, Roumeliotis said.

"So the government really has to fight against this fiscal fraud... and from the other side we have to control the expenditure of the central government," he added.

The Socialist government has a plan to cut the deficit as a percentage of GDP, currently 15 per cent, by almost half in four or five

years, Roumeliotis said. But the banking source said the government has shown no determination in controlling the public sector deficit and in an election year harnessing spending was unlikely. Economists in the private sector agreed.

Budget targets are consistently overshoot. The 1989 budget is forecast at 1.39 trillion drachmas (\$9.26 billion) compared with 1.16 trillion drachmas (\$7.73 billion) last year, which ended well over its original target.

"The budget is not credible," the banker said.

Elections are scheduled for June 18, by which time analysts say the memories of a \$200 million banking scandal at the privately-owned Bank of Crete and a scandal at the state-owned Greek arms industry will have faded.

Both bankers and Roumeliotis denied the scandals had affected the climate of confidence in the country.

"What will count on voting day will be the amount of money in

their pockets and memories of the scandals will be dull by then," one banker said.

"Whatever government wins, there is going to have to be another austerity programme," he added echoing sentiments of some other private sector economists.

"One thing they need to do is to stop the inflow of people into the public sector," the banker said. He suggested an inflation-linked wage system should be scrapped.

Inflation remains the highest among European Community members at about 14 per cent, against 15.7 per cent last year.

"The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is predicting 13.5 per cent inflation for 1989 and we are expecting less than that," Roumeliotis said.

"Our target (in 1988) was to accelerate the development process in Greece without destabilising the economy," he said. The task was not easy, he added.

S. Korea plans to import more to trim surpluses

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea will increase imports rather than curtail exports to reduce trade surpluses and avoid friction with the United States, Western Europe and other major trading partners, a top official has said.

The country reported a trade deficit of \$33 million for January, the first deficit since August 1987. But trade and industry ministry officials described that deficit as temporary and predicted an upturn this month. They said the nation recorded a surplus in January in its current account, which measures other transactions as well as trade.

In a briefing for foreign media reporters, Trade and Industry Minister Han Seung-soo said the government intended to lower Korea's trade surplus with the United States to \$6.5 billion this year from last year's \$8.5 billion.

South Korea intended to lower its surplus with the European Community (EC) to \$1.5 billion from last year's \$2 billion.

Han said balancing exports and imports would be the top priority of his ministry.

He said Korea planned to send buying missions to the United States and member countries of the EC to expand imports. His ministry said earlier that at least four import missions would visit the United States between March and May with shopping lists totalling \$4 billion.

Han also said the government was preparing a three-year plan to remove remaining restrictions on imports, including farm products.

He said a five-year plan has been launched to reduce tariff rates from the present 12 per cent to 7.2 per cent, matching those of developed countries, by 1993.

Korea also planned to lower its 1988 overall trade surplus to \$5 billion from last year's \$8.9 billion, the ministry said.

Han said the won's rise against the U.S. dollar should be slower than last year, when he said it climbed 15.8 per cent against the American currency.

The won's rapid appreciation, along with substantial wage hikes

and frequent labour-management disputes, has weakened the competitiveness of Korean industries, particularly labour-intensive and small and medium-size industries like textiles and footwear, he said.

Besides restructuring of such adversely affected industries, the minister said the government was encouraging Korean firms to invest abroad and modernise production.

Han said the multilateral trading system now was threatened by bilateralism and regionalism and must be preserved. He said Korea would continue to take part in the GATT-sponsored Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

He added that Korea supports regional economic cooperation on a non-exclusive basis, but opposes the formation of an economic bloc.

Han said he was confident that "our trade and industry objectives can be achieved without losing the vitality that has been the trademark of our economy." The economy grew at an annual rate of 12 per cent in the past three years.

A preliminary government tally showed South Korea's exports in January amounted to \$4.37 billion, up 11.4 per cent from a year earlier. Imports were listed at \$4.41 billion, up 21 per cent.

Except in August 1987, South Korea had been reporting monthly trade surpluses since March 1986.

S. Korean business tycoon confirms deals with N. Korea

Meanwhile, South Korean business tycoon Chung Ju-Yung, returning from a 10-day visit to North Korea, confirmed that he and the North had agreed in principle to undertake several joint projects.

The unprecedented joint venture agreement between the sometimes bitter rival countries had been reported by earlier North Korean official media.

Chung, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Group, South Korea's largest business conglomerate, was the country's first known business leader to visit the North with the approval of both governments since Korea was divided in 1945.

Under the agreement signed in Pyongyang, Chung said Hyundai and the North Korean government will jointly develop a North Korean resort centered around scenic Mount Kumgang on the North Korean east coast to attract South Koreans and foreigners.

Chung said the two sides also agreed to jointly develop resources in Soviet Siberia and to jointly operate a railroad rolling stock plant and a shipyard, both at Wonsan in the North.

Romania announces large trade surplus

VIENNA (R) — Romania has announced a 1988 trade surplus of some \$4 billion saying this would permit large loan repayments under President Nicolae Ceausescu's plan to wipe out Western debt.

"Foreign trade activities in 1988 ended with a roughly four thousand million dollar surplus of the trade balance in convertible currency, ensuring the payment of a substantial share of the foreign debt," a Romanian communiqué said.

The communiqué, issued through the official news agency Agerpres, gave no details of how much debt had been repaid.

To cut debt, Ceausescu has throttled imports and launched an all-out export drive under which most of Romania's best food has been sold for hard cur-

rency to the West.

But Western diplomats said repaying Western debts at breakneck speed had inflicted chronic shortages of food, heating and lighting on Romanians.

Last December, a foreign trade ministry official said Romania had cut its gross Western debts from a peak of \$10.5 billion in 1981 to a net zero — when the amount other countries owed Bucharest was subtracted from the gross figure.

Romania is secretive about actual figures but Western diplomats estimate it is owed between \$2.5 and \$3 billion, chiefly by Third World states.

Agerpres gave no comparative figures but a \$4 billion surplus would be twice the \$1.9 billion surplus recorded with Western nations in 1986.

Libya lends Uganda \$130m

KAMPALA (AP) — Libya has loaned Uganda \$130 million at four per cent interest rate to be repaid in 12 years with a four-year grace period, Radio Uganda has announced.

"The loan would be repaid by exporting Ugandan goods and exports to Libya," the state-owned radio said.

The radio broadcast added Libya also had agreed to reschedule repayment of a \$11 million loan to Uganda in 1974 when deposed dictator Idi Amin, then a close friend of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, was in power.

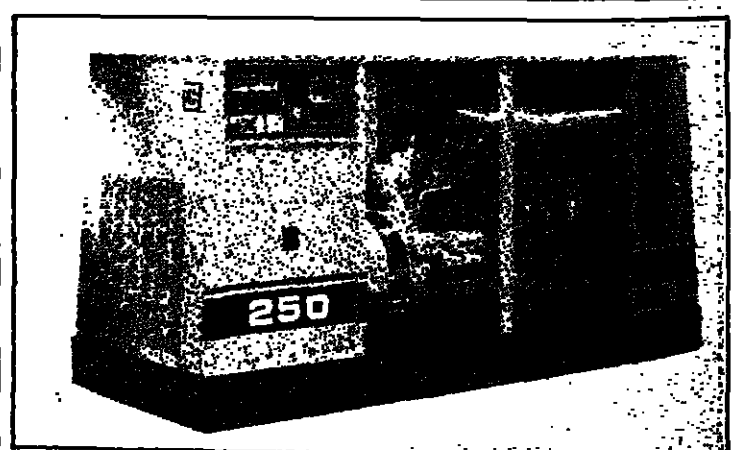
Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni recently appealed to Socialist countries to reschedule debt repayments by Uganda to enable the "government's econo-

mic rehabilitation programme to take off the ground."

On Jan. 27, representatives from Britain, United States, Japan, West Germany and Italy, in a meeting with Ugandan officials in Paris, France, agreed to reschedule the East African nation's debts incurred before 1982 and due for repayment this and next year.

The money Uganda owed the five industrialised nations was not disclosed.

Museveni inherited an economy bankrupted by Amin's mismanagement between 1971 and 1979 and stagnated by a civil war during deposed civilian president Milton Obote's five-year rule, which ended with his ouster by the military in July 1985.



Caterpillar Generator Sets... Power of a New Generation

Ratings from 50 to 4910 kW, 60 Hz and 50 to 6560 kVA, 50 Hz.

When your normal source of power is interrupted, Cat Standby Generator Sets can be on line in seconds and continue operating for as long as the utility outage lasts. Single source design ensures the engine and generator are performance matched. Proven design, quality materials, computer-assisted machining and 100% engine and generator testing ensures reliability.

Cat Generator Sets have earned a reputation for dependability in tens of thousands of electrical power generation applications worldwide. Today's full

line offers you the opportunity to exactly match your standby power requirements.

Now more than ever before, Caterpillar Generator Sets can deliver all the power you need in any application. With new models in the lower and higher kilowatt range, you can exactly match your gen set requirements from 45 to 4910 kW and 45 to 6560 kVA.

This broad power range, coupled with a wide variety of power accessories such as the EMCP, allows you to select the optimum product for your needs. See your Caterpillar Dealer for complete details.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, Feb. 5, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	560.0	565.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	433.0	437.5
Pound Sterling	975.3	985.1	Deutsche mark	264.1	266.7
Deutschemark	297.9	300.9	Swedish crown	87.9	88.8
Swiss franc	351.0	354.5	Italian lira (for 100)	40.8	41.2
French franc	87.5	88.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	142.3	143.7

SENIOR SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER SEEKING A JOB

- Jordanian, 35 years old.
- Academic and potential certificates.
- More than eight years experience in the field of sales and marketing food stuff and consumer products.
- Drawing general and specific targets for salesmen, training them on up-to-date marketing methods and drawing up strategic plans for developing general marketing.
- Background and marketing research at local and international markets, competitive products etc.
- Submitting periodical reports to general manager.

For more information please contact tel: 781359 or write to P.O. Box 925225, Amman, K. Sami.

WANTED

Used 4 wheel drive
Duty free
Tel.: 668191/2

WANTED

Old cars not roadworthy for professional school workshop.
Tel: (09)991464 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Dr. Saba Ghawi

Pediatrician, Italy
MD. MJPS. JMCCP

Announces that he is now working in his clinic, located in Jabal Hussein, Firas Circle, beside Fawzi Pharmacy.

Clinic Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Clinic Tel. 687118, Residence Tel. 611414

GOETHE-INSTITUT

German Language Courses

Registration: Tuesday and Wednesday: 7 and 8.2/1989

from 9-12 noon and 4-6 p.m.

course duration 8 weeks 14/2-11/4/1989

4 times weekly 90 minutes - Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday

course fees: first course: J.D. 30, other courses J.D. 20

Late registration: J.D. 3

For further information please call: 641 993

Saturday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

and Wednesday 4 - 6 p.m.

WANTED

Salesmen and Saleswomen

Send C.V. to: MEBA
P.O. Box 9446, Amman

REQUIRED

Graduate English native teachers of EFL or TESL.

Call Tel: 680726, 4-7 p.m. only.

FOR RENT

Modern furnished and unfurnished apartments.

- Three bedrooms, two baths, living room, reception and dining room, kitchen and glassed balconies. Area 200 m².
- Independent C. Heating & telephone.
- Location: Shmeisani near Birds Garden.
- Land lord - Tel. 641443 - 642351 - 667862

SECRETARY WANTED

A multinational company is looking for an administrative secretary.

- Fluent in English. French is an asset. Knowledge of typing, filing and accountancy is a must.
- Salary according to qualifications and experience.

For appointment please call 679431 from 8-1 and from 3-6

PENT HOUSE FOR RENT

Furnished, fully equipped kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, reception area includes dining 50 sq.m. Most beautiful view of garden of an area 200 sq.m. Magnificent roof of Amman. Independent central heating, garage and telephone.
Location: 6th Circle near Saudi Arabian ambassador's residence. Rent negotiable.

If interested, please call tel. 810303

FOR RENT

Luxury furnished apt. Area 350m² consisting of three bedrooms, two salons, 3 balconies, separate tel. and central heating.
Location: in front of the American School gate. Between Seventh and Eighth circles.

Contact tel. 842428, 813248

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Furnished or

Unfurnished

In Shmeisani, Sweifieh, Abdoun and many other locations.

For more information please call Wael Real Estate at 685342

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consists of 2 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, dining room, 2 bathrooms, telephone, central heating.
Location behind Philadelphia Hotel - near the French School.

For more information please call 677330.

Sports

Starling stops Honeyghan

LAS VEGAS (R) — Marion Starling punished favourite Lloyd Honeyghan mercilessly Saturday, stopping the Briton in the ninth round to win the World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title.

Starling weathered Honeyghan's early flurry of punches then took control of the fight from the fifth round.

In another welterweight title fight on the same bill, Mark Breland stopped South Korean Lee Seung-Soon in just 54 seconds of the first round to take the vacant World Boxing Association crown.

Ironically, only Honeyghan has finished a world welterweight title fight sooner when he stopped American Gene Hatcher in 39 seconds two years ago.

Honeyghan started the scheduled 12-round war as if he were trying to show how many punches he could throw. For the first three rounds the 28-year-old Briton threw shots at all parts of the

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing scored 17 points and blocked five shots as the New York Knicks defeated Indiana 113-106 Saturday night, the Pacers' fifth consecutive loss.

The Knicks led most of the game, but had to survive a 10-0 spurt in the final quarter. A drive by Vern Fleming ended the run and gave Indiana its only lead since the first quarter, 94-93, with 6:23 to play.

Ewing then rejected a shot by Wayne Tisdale and Gerald Wilkins ended a streak of eight consecutive New York misses with a layup to put the Knicks ahead again.

Chuck Person had 23 points for Indiana and Rick Smith scored 10 of his 20 in the final quarter for the Pacers.

In other National Basketball Association games Saturday, Milwaukee defeated Washington, 113-102; Denver edged Utah 127-126; Atlanta beat Phoenix 118-116; Portland routed San Antonio 137-100; and Golden State defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 116-107.

Backs 113, Bullets 102

Ricky Pierce scored nine of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a 113-102 victory over the Washington Bullets.

Nuggets 127, Jazz 126

Walter Davis' jumper with one second remaining gave the Denver Nuggets a 127-126 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Hawks 118, Suns 116, OT

Moses Malone scored a season-high 37 points and sank a decisive jumper with 1:05 remaining as the Atlanta Hawks scored the final eight points in overtime and beat the Phoenix Suns 118-116.

Trail Blazers 137, Spurs 100

Adrian Branch scored a career-high 28 points and Kiki Vandeweghe added 26 as Portland built a 29-point halftime lead and coasted to a 137-100 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

Warriors 116, Clippers 107

Chris Mullin scored 24 points as the Golden State Warriors handed Los Angeles a 116-107 defeat, the Clippers' 18th consecutive loss.

Kuwait edges out Jordan in Davis Cup first round

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kuwait Sunday qualified for the second round of the Davis Cup group II championship after securing a 3-2 victory against Jordan in the men's tennis preliminaries.

Despite the double fault he made at the beginning of the second set, and a few sloppy errors here and there, Ali managed to keep tight control of his service allowing but three games to be snatched from him by his opponent.

Though distracted by noisy members of the audience who moved while play was in progress, Ashouk managed to put up a tough fight in the second set. He cleverly executed well-calculated shots and managed to win three games in that set.

But Ali beautifully placed a long shot in the corner, catching Ashouk out of balance, and marking the point in the game when Ali's victory seemed very close indeed.

Both players demonstrated quick reflexes and hustled wholeheartedly after the balls. Ashouk's quick movements earned him a few remarkable points but with an apparent pain in the waist, he lost the first game which he served, after which Ali was on a roll. The latter had gathered so much momentum that he won the third and final set 6-0.

Sunday's second game was a much faster one, with both players displaying impressive moves and shots. But by the end of the second set, it was clear that Kuwait's 17-year-old Rashed would win the game securing his country's 3-2 lead for the second



Jordan's Hani Al Ali and Kuwait's Ayman Al Ashouk shake hands at the end of Sunday's singles match

round against Pakistan in April. Khalil, former holder of Jordan's men's title, excelled in speed and strategy which he very cogently executed. He managed to draw from his years of experience in the game, making relatively few inadvertent errors.

The 37-year-old lawyer brilliantly used serves to his advantage by approaching the net consistently to kill many of Rashed's dangerous shots.

Khalil displayed a number of carefully thought out shots. Both the strength and style of his hits covered up for some of the double faults he would have liked to avoid.

But the game, which Kuwait won 6-4, 6-2, 6-0, seemingly boiled down to a younger, physically more fit and better prepared opponent against Khalil. Rashed displayed tremendous power in every single one of his serves, managing a number of aces. His stamina, excellent reflexes and manoeuvrability skills allowed him enough confidence to secure his country a well-earned victory.

Khalil, who by his own admission is a better doubles than singles player, said he gave it his "best shot." In his view, the Kuwaiti team was better prepared for the games.

Her Majesty Queen Noor attended Sunday's matches and distributed symbolic gifts to members of both teams. A number of officials and ambassadors attended the game.

Bruno banks on Tyson being distracted by marriage problems

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Arizona (AP) — In his final week of training, British boxer Frank Bruno had no difficulty battering sparring partner James Pritchard.

Pritchard, a compact heavyweight, was supposed to be emulating Mike Tyson, who Bruno will fight for the heavyweight title. Except he didn't fight much like Tyson.

"Tyson throws a lot more punches than I do," Pritchard admitted. "And he throws them awfully hard."

Bruno, with a 32-2 record, is likely to find that out the hard way Feb. 25 when he steps into the Las Vegas Hilton ring an overwhelming underdog against Tyson.

The hulking British challenger — who hasn't fought in 16 months — is rated a 9.5-to-1 loser against Tyson. Oddsmakers say it is even money whether the fight will last a full four rounds.

Even Pritchard, Bruno's own sparring partner, admits his employer may be in over his head.

"I gave Frank one of the best chances because of the controversy in Tyson's life," Pritchard says. "But without the controversy, Tyson is basically unbeatable."

The turmoil in Tyson's life is also on Bruno's mind as he trains daily before a bleacher filled with spectators in this suburb of Phoenix. Bruno came here in early January to set up his camp well away from his British followers and the media.

This is a peak time to beat Mike Tyson," Bruno insists. "What he is going through — I don't think his mind is 100 per cent on the job."

That Bruno is planning some of his chance of winning the title on Tyson being distracted by his marital and managerial problems may be an indication that this fight will be as much a mismatch as most of Tyson's fights have been.

"After the fight you ask Frank Bruno whether it was such a peak time," Tyson said.

Still, Bruno is upbeat and confident as he enters his final week of training before breaking camp for Las Vegas.

"I'm actually looking forward to the fight," he said. "The pressure is not on me. He's got everything to prove to everyone."

The normally affable contender bristled recently when a reporter asked him if he was fighting Tyson just for the \$3.8-million payday, with no hope of winning.

"That's a crazy question," he shot back. "I've made money before and this ain't about money. I've got a nice life, a good home, a family. I'm content with my life. But I'm not going to let the cherry pass me by again."

Sister-in-law athletes take different paths with mutual respect

By Bob Greene
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Florence Griffith Joyner is the epitome of glamour and glitz, and now she's getting rich. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, probably the world's greatest female all-around athlete, says the flash and dash of her sister-in-law doesn't bother her.

"All of us have our own way of doing things," said Joyner-Kersey. "It's what's inside, not outside, that counts."

Celebrated as much for her sparkling costumes and lacquered fingernails as for her running, Griffith Joyner has received offers from as far away as the Soviet Union and Japan. They've also come from Hollywood for acting roles, from television shows for guest appearances, from magazines for cover photos and lengthy interviews, from publishing companies for publication of her books and poems, from companies for product endorsements, from organisations for speaking engagements, from charities for help in raising money for working with children, from schools for inspirational talks, and from individuals requesting autographed pictures.

who is going to represent their company. "I'm pleased with what I have."

She doesn't mention that she has won the C.C. Jackson award for the outstanding woman in field events for the past six consecutive years. Griffith Joyner, who blossomed last year in the sprints, received the C.C. Jackson award as the outstanding woman track athlete of 1988.

When asked if she felt overshadowed by Griffith Joyner even though she is considered the best female track and field athlete in the world, Joyner-Kersey pointed to her heart and talked about what's inside.

company for winning at Seoul. She also got some of her other sponsors to help," said her husband, Bob Kersey, the women's track coach at University of California at Los Angeles who also coaches his wife and formerly coached Flo Jo.

"Every one of her contracts gives something back to the community or to the sport of track and field," Kersey said.

Joyner-Kersey said she started her community foundation because when she was growing up there were no local role models for her.

At the Seoul Olympics last September, Griffith Joyner took the gold medals for the United States in the 100- and 200-metre dashes and the 400-metre relay, and silver in the 1,600-metre relay. She also set world records in the 100 and 200 in 1988, breaking both by unprecedented margins.

Joyner-Kersey won Olympic gold for the United States in the heptathlon and long jump. She twice broke the world record in the heptathlon in 1988, compiling 7,215 points in the U.S. Olympic trials in July and 7,291 points in the Seoul

Joyner-Kersey also has commercial endorsements, but they are considered to be much less than the flamboyant Griffith Joyner. Still, Joyner-Kersey chooses her words carefully when asked about the differences.

"What they're looking for is consistency," Joyner-Kersey said of the people who decide

Last Thanksgiving, Griffith Joyner was on a float in the Macy's Thanksgiving day parade. Joyner-Kersey was watching the parade with 100 young people from her hometown, East St. Louis, Illinois. She paid for their trip.

"That came from her bonus money she got from her shoe

She again pointed to her heart.

"It's been fun. It's put a lot of things into perspective," she said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ J 9 4 3
♥ A 10 9 7 6
♦ A K J 5
♣ Void

EAST
♠ K Q 7 6 5
♥ K J 8
♦ 10 7 4
♣ 9 8 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ Q 5 3 2
♦ Q 6 3
♣ K Q 6 4 2

The bidding:
East 1♠ South 1♥ West 1♠ North 1♥
2♣ 3♥ Pass 3♠
Pass 3NT Pass 6♥
Dbl Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of 2.

The prize for the best-played hand at the Junior European Championships went to Hugh McCann of Ireland for this fine effort. The event was held in Bulgaria.

North's double of West's frivolous overall was negative, in effect for takeout. When South showed a spade stopper with his bid of three no trump, his partner worked out that it had to be the king or the ace since, on the auction, South could not hold more than two spades, so North gambled on the heart slam. We don't blame East for doubling, even though that placed the trumps for declarer.

Unfortunately for the defenders, West led a trump instead of a diamond. Declarer took the ace, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a club. Two spade ruffs served as entries for two more club ruffs, and the queen-king of diamonds were cashed.

With nine tricks in the bag, declarer led dummy's last spade, and East's goose was cooked. If he ruffed low, declarer would overruff and take two more tricks via a club ruff and the ace of trumps. If he ruffed high and returned a trump, declarer would trump with dummy's ten (or ace, if necessary) and score the last two tricks on a high crossruff.

So East discarded his ace of clubs. Declarer countered by ruffing low, then trumping a club with the ace of hearts. When declarer now led the last diamond from the board, he had to score his queen of trumps en passant for the fulfilling trick.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If a complicated situation appears, be tough and handle the problem head on. Draw respect from others by being firm and steady. Stand your ground if others attack sound ideas.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) The pressure may be on all day. Make use of creative ideas. Introduce yourself to someone whose friendship you have wanted to make.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) This is one of those days when everyone seems to be on your case. Keep your self-confidence, and don't back away from change.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Sleepy periods may make you feel in a lazy mood. The exotic will appeal to you. Resist immature temptations.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) This is a favorable day to shop for clothing. You are in the mood to improve things, so put yourself on the top of the list.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The course of true love does not always run smoothly. You may be asked to prove your love to someone who wants a commitment reaffirmed.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Shop today and you may have to settle for an inferior substitute. Control your impulses and settle only for the quality you desire.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't compare yourself to others. Your own standards of comfort and living will serve you best. Avoid keeping up with the Joneses.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are capable of making a strong commitment, whether financial, career or to a loved one. Express the depth of your feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may need quiet time tonight after surviving this hectic day. Spend extra time with the children.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your charismatic nature will shine today. Make progress in love, creative projects and career where things really connect.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have the power of mind today. Projects started now will get a push from the new moon's position. Look for results in two weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may be feeling the inspiration of the new moon. Make plans to be with understanding friends who can be on your psychic wavelength.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 1-31

"I always wondered what would happen if I pushed all the TV remote control buttons at once. That's what happened."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YIXTS
BABIR
SAILEY
LEARNY

ONE IS NOT AT LIBERTY TO TAKE THIS WITH OTHERS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLOOD EXACT MARTIN JAGUAR
Answer: A boxer who fails to carry out his second's suggestions is sometimes this — CARRIED OUT

THE Daily Crossword

by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS
1 Kind of door
6 Woodman
10 Eccentric wheels
14 Vestibule
15 Organic compound
16 Algerian gulf
17 Post Lazarus
18 Polon
19 Locale
20 West Virginia
22 Infelix
24 More ignoble
25 Top — (head man)
28 Asian range
30 Sled
31 Keen
32 Sports off.
33 Nebraska
38 Patricia Neal movie
40 Go into
41 Heraldic term
42 Certain beam
43 Objective
45 "And take from seventy springs —" (Roumanian)
48 Singer Vikki
49 Tennessee
54 Shorty
55 Characteristic
58 Knit
59 Warbled
60 Cotton thread
61 Should that be the case
62 Shoe insert
63 Alliance acronym
DOWN
1 Article
2 Sloping
3 Former dive
4 Gluck
5 Tropical fruit
6 Good cigar
7 Correct
8 Coll
9 Organic compound
10 Recollect
11 Certain actor
12 Believer in: suit.
13 Smelling product
14 Scoffed look
15 Layer
16 Palmists
17 Gen. composer
18 Baseball name
19 Balm
20 Brown falcon
21 Ripening factor
22 Punta del
23 Titled surmise
24 Gluck
25 Novelist
26 Lefcadia
27 Disturb
28 Turtle
29 Coll
30 Wine expert
31 Backward
32 Nautical call
33 Radar's kin
34 Reproduction
35 Noted US surgeon
36 Silkworm
37 Direction
38 Calcareous rock
39 Formerly old style
40 Card game

Mutt'n' Jeff.

JEFF DID YOU KNOW THAT A GOOD DRIVER CAN SEE OUT OF THE SIDES OF HIS EYES WHILE LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD?

I CAN!

CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT SIDES OF YOU?

FURTHER THAN THAT — I CAN SEE WHAT'S IN BACK OF MY HEAD!

HOW — I LOOK IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR!

RIGHT NOW, MY PITCHER'S MOUND IS COVERED WITH SNOW, BUT PRETTY SOON IT'LL BE SPRING, AND I'LL BE THROWING THAT FIRST PITCH...

POW!!

...THEN I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO WINTER AGAIN...

SHE'S ONLY A WOMAN — HAVE A BIT OF PATIENCE WITH HER...

I COULDN'T STAY AWAY, PET — YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME —

I KNOW THAT, MATE, BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER TELL ME

THERE YOU GO AGAIN!!

Peking wants more Soviet concessions

PEKING (R) — China has delayed the confirmation of a summit date with the Soviet Union in a move which diplomatic sources say is aimed at pulling more concessions from Moscow on the Kampuchean issue.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to China to prepare the first summit since 1959 ended in confusion Saturday with conflicting statements from the two sides.

Giving an account of his meeting with 84-year-old Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in Shanghai, Shevardnadze had reporters running to telephones with the words:

"We agreed on the date of the forthcoming Soviet-Chinese summit. The visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to the People's Republic of China will take place in mid-May of this year."

The summit would fully normalise state and Communist Party relations between the two countries, he said.

China had formally issued an

invitation Friday to the Kremlin leader to visit Peking. Chinese and Soviet officials had predicted the timing would be announced the next day.

However, just after Shevardnadze's plane left Peking, Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei told reporters at the airport that mid-May was just a Soviet proposal which Peking would consider.

He also disputed Shevardnadze's remarks that a meeting with Kampuchean guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk was not discussed in talks with the Soviet minister.

The subject was raised, Tian said, quoting Shevardnadze as saying the time was not right to meet the exiled Sihanouk, who is currently in Peking.

"In effect Tian said Shevardnadze was lying," an East European source commented.

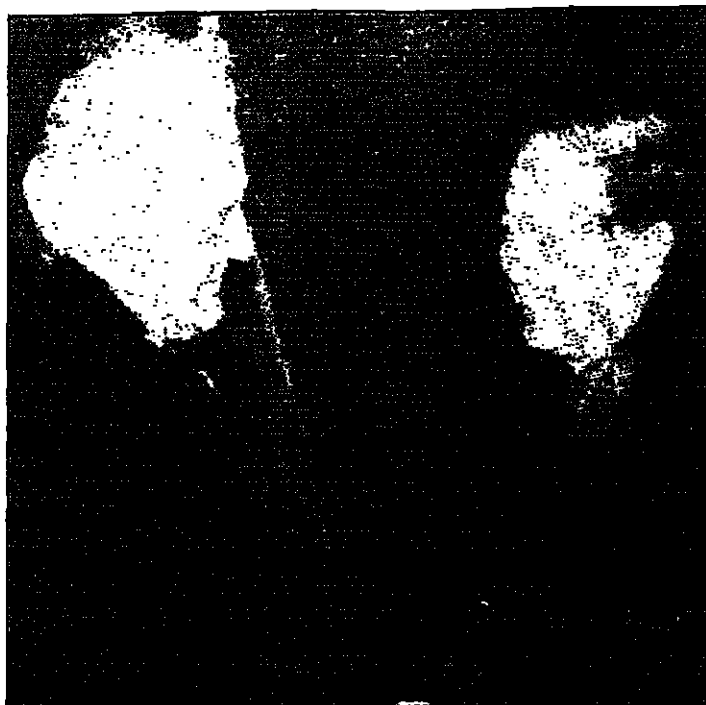
"We hope the Soviet Union will make more efforts to promote a fair and reasonable settlement of the Kampuchean issue," Tian said in a sombre summary of Shevardnadze's three-day visit.

China and the Soviet Union, he went on, had failed to agree on the make-up of a future Kampuchean government after a withdrawal of Vietnam's Soviet-backed forces.

Diplomats said they were in no doubt that the summit would go ahead and probably in May but serious differences over Kampuchea had scuttled Moscow's attempts to push ahead and publicly set a specific date.

Said a Western diplomat: "It is in the Soviets' interest to set a date but not so for the Chinese. They want room to manoeuvre but the odds are that a summit will take place in May."

A well-informed Chinese source agreed.



Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, being greeted by his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Peking last week.

"It's a question of face. Kampuchea is far from resolved and China wants more concessions. But the summit must take place in the first half of this year," he said.

The Soviet Union's support of Vietnam's occupation of Kam-

Jury awards Italians \$1.5m for JAL crash

SEATTLE (AP) — A King County superior court jury has ordered the Boeing Company to pay \$1.5 million in damages to the family of an Italian man and his son who were among the 520 people who died in the 1985 crash of a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 in Japan.

The verdict was returned Friday.

Attorneys for the Italian widow, Heidi Moroni, 48, and her 18-year-old son, Alessandro, had sought \$6.5 million in damages from the airplane company. Her husband, Giancarlo Moroni, and a second son, Andrea Moroni, died in the crash.

Moroni said the award did not adequately address her loss. "There were two human lives which had to die in this accident, because the airplane was not fixed as well as it should have been," she said. "I think you know two human lives should be worth more."

She said jurors worked hard to understand the complex case, but Boeing used resources to confuse and "create difficulties" for the jurors.

Boeing has admitted liability for the crash, saying it was caused by improper repairs the company made after the plane scraped its tail during a hard landing in 1978. The amount of damages was the only issue to be decided in the Moroni case and three others, all involving non-Japanese victims.

that are still pending in King County.

Jurors deliberated a day and a half before returning their decision.

Damage suits filed on behalf of 71 Japanese nationals against Boeing and Japan Air Lines have been moved to Japan for trial.

According to Japanese news reports last month, there have been out-of-court settlements with families of 377 of the crash victims.

Boeing attorney Tom McLaughlin described Friday's award as "reasonable," and said the only portion Boeing might challenge is \$200,000 for the suffering endured by the two in the half-hour the damaged plane remained aloft before it crashed into a mountain.

Attorneys for the Moronis wanted the jury to weigh the suffering experienced by the passengers in the 32 minutes before the plane crashed into a mountain. The plane lost its tail and rudder 12 minutes after takeoff and over the next half-hour the pilot fought to regain control of the crippled plane.

Four people survived the crash. Boeing argued that there was no panic in the final minutes of the flight and a doctor testified that the acceleration experienced by the passengers would have been much less severe than that on a roller coaster.

Fears of epidemic persist in Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — Sanitary conditions have worsened in parts of northern Armenia struck by an earthquake in December and officials warned Saturday that epidemics could break out as spring approached.

The Communist Party commission tackling the aftermath of the Dec. 7 quake expressed concern about conditions in the area where at least 25,000 people were killed and more than 100,000 evacuated.

"Although thanks to the self-sacrificing work of doctors no epidemics have occurred in cities or rural regions, there remains a danger that they could break out, particularly with the coming of spring," it said in a report.

The report, carried by TASS news agency, urged all services "not to lose control of the situation for one moment."

The commission, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Lev Voronin, said reconstruction in the area was proceeding too slowly.

It singled out plans by one construction team from the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan

to begin laying foundations only at the end of February.

A letter from an engineer published in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda suggested that construction standards in the entire Transcaucasus area failed to meet the demands of a seismic zone and that all buildings should be torn down.

The engineer, V. Psalomshchikov, also suggested that high-quality earthquake-resistant cement known to have been stolen in Armenia had been used to build official villas.

"Its use in private construction could be easily detected through analysis or tests and I think it is vital to do so now," he wrote. "These villas, built with stolen materials, should naturally be confiscated and used for housing victims of the earthquake and their former owners should be given appropriate criminal punishment."

TASS reported the arrival in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, of French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour, who has set up a fund-raising association for victims of the earthquake.

Chinese avant-garde show shocks police

PEKING (R) — China's first major exhibition of avant-garde art made a shocking debut Sunday — police closed it down after a young woman opened fire at a glass sculpture in a "spontaneous art happening."

Already delayed by two years because of political problems, the exhibition opened with a fanfare of publicity at Peking's China Art Gallery.

Spectators said young artists threw condoms and money into the air, undressed and rolled on raw eggs, and sold pawns.

Then a young woman — said by some to be the artist herself — stood between two mirrors painted with the image of people making a telephone call and fired two shots from a small pistol.

"She had thought of using a bigger gun but this would have smashed the glass. The bullets just drilled two holes. Nobody was hurt. It was part of her art," a friend said.

Police quickly arrived — some armed with sub-machineguns — and detained the woman, 26-year-old Xiao Lu, and a man. Onlookers were cleared out of the vast three-storey building and

the exhibition was closed almost as soon as it had begun.

Artists waiting outside while organisers negotiated inside with the police said the authorities had already expressed horror at some of the more shocking pieces — a giant breast, a plastic phallus hanging from the ceiling and a politically sensitive triptych of Mao Tse-tung.

Many of the artists emerged several years ago, inspired by Western abstract and pop art and dadaism of the 1920s.

But a political movement against "bourgeois liberalism" — Western political ideas and influences — prevented them from staging a major public exhibition until recently.

Artistic hopes were expressed in the exhibition's logo — a road sign forbidding U-turns to the left. Commenting with enthusiasm last week, before the opening, the official China Daily said the exhibition would be a spectacular event for struggling young artists but unlikely to attract as many people as the country's first major showing of nude art last month.

COLUMN

Inmate to return after honeymoon

ELIZABETHTON, Tennessee (AP) — An escaped inmate assured a sheriff's dispatcher in a telephone call that he would be back — after his honeymoon. Melvin Harrell, serving time for a previous escape, called from a pay phone Monday, said dispatcher L.C. Tester, who was not the one to take the call. "He said he had gotten married," Tester said. Harrell offered to let authorities know where he could be picked up after his honeymoon. Tester said. Harrell, a 31-year-old trusty at the Carter County Jail, escaped Jan. 28 by prying a lock off a stairwell door and making it to the roof, authorities said. He also is wanted in Michigan on an escape charge.

Police probe 17th century king's blood

LONDON (AP) — The waistcoat reputedly worn by King Charles I at his beheading in 1649 went back to the Museum of London Tuesday, after a police crime lab failed to determine if its mysterious stains are royal blood. "We have examined it but we cannot tell if the stains are blood," said Graham Davall, a biochemist at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory. "If we had a piece of the silk we could look for some form of hemoglobin by using intensive X-rays to show the protein structure, but naturally, the museum won't let us cut it up," said Davall. To discover whether the stains could have been the king's blood, the museum sent the waistcoat to the lab, where it underwent the routine tests that would be conducted in a modern-day crime. Davall said. "I am convinced we have the king's waistcoat," Kay Staniland, the museum's keeper of costume and textiles, said Monday, the 340th anniversary of the execution. "The workmanship of the knitting is right for the time and when it was bought for a note from a collector in 1925, it had a note attached saying it had belonged to Dr. Hobbs, the physician who attended the king on the Scaffold. It then passed to his daughter, Susannah, and remained with their descendants until it was auctioned in 1898," Staniland said.

Madonna, Penn to end marriage

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — Actress-singer Madonna and actor Sean Penn apparently have reached an amicable agreement to end their stormy three-year marriage and divide their property, court records show. A divorce petition filed in Los Angeles county superior court cited irreconcilable differences and seeks restoration of the pop singer's former name, Madonna Ciccone. It also said community property and financial obligations shared by the couple "have been disposed of by written agreement." No details were disclosed in the two-page petition filed Jan. 25. Madonna publicist Liz Rosenberg said last week that Penn would get couple's Malibu home and the singer would keep their New York apartment. "That's it," Penn publicist Lois Smith said Wednesday. "She kept one and he kept the other." Madonna recently bought a \$2.9-million home in Hollywood Hills. The divorce action follows a Dec. 28 incident in which police were called to the couple's Malibu home after the hot-tempered Penn allegedly beat Madonna. No charges were filed.

Child's note finds a friend

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Ashira Konigsburg was four when she tucked a note into a bottle and tossed it into the Atlantic Ocean. Now she's six and has a new friend in a place she's never heard of, 4,000 kilometres away. Alfredo Sousa Pedro, a 36-year-old cook, found Ashira's 450 grammes soda bottle Jan. 3 as he walked along a beach on Sao Miguel, the largest of the Azores, the Portuguese islands about 1,290 kilometres west of mainland Portugal. The islands are brushed by the same gulf stream currents that flow off Florida. In a telephone interview Wednesday with the Palm Beach Post, Sousa Pedro said he doesn't understand English and so he had his brother read the note. The note explained that Ashira was taking part in a summer-camp programme. It asked whoever found the bottle to return the enclosed form, after noting the place and the day the bottle was found. "It was a strange because it took so long to get here. I knew that I had to write back," Sousa Pedro said.

Reagan busy with post-presidency deals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ronald Reagan left the White House two weeks ago to retire as elder statesman in his beloved California, but instead of lounging around the pool, he's been busy lining up work and visiting places from his past.

The ex-president has signed a book deal worth up to \$7 million, lined up a 50,000-dollar-per-speech lecture contract and opened his century city offices, where a variety of offers are pouring in.

There are also social demands: his 78th birthday party Monday night at the ritzy Bixby Gardens, a Feb. 23 Palm Springs gala honouring Elizabeth Taylor and a private welcome-home dinner Feb. 25.

Also Monday, he is to meet Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who returns to Tokyo Tuesday after an eight-day trip to the United States.

"The change of address hasn't caused any slowing down of their (the Reagans') schedule," said Reagan spokesman Mark Weinberg. "They are very active and on the go."

Shunning the reclusive lifestyle of many celebrities, the couple often venture from their Bel-Air home to dine at Chassens, attend Sunday church services or visit friends.

Secret service agents drive Reagan from his \$2.5 million hillside home to Century City, a distance of eight kilometres, where he takes a private elevator to his 34th-floor office suite at Fox Plaza and spends about six hours daily at his desk.

Foreign dignitaries dropping in on Reagan have included Ugandan President H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni.

Reagan is apparently fielding offer to sit on corporate boards. He also is being sought for radio, television and motion pictures.

Hours after relinquishing the presidency to George Bush Jan. 20, Reagan told cheering supporters at a Los Angeles International Airport rally that he had been asked to star in a sequel to "Bedtime for Bonzo," the 1951 comedy he shared with a chimpanzee.

"Only this time they wanted me to play Bonzo," he joked.

'Military cuts vital to improved Soviet life'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union cannot hope to achieve improvements in its standard of living without large military cuts, a senior Soviet commentator said Saturday in the government newspaper Izvestia.

Stanislav Kondrashov, analysing last week's publication of troop and arms levels in Europe by the Warsaw Pact, praised the disclosure as a step towards realising Moscow's repeated promises to publish details of its defence budget.

But he said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would not be able to fulfil his pledges to do away with chronic shortages of food and other basic goods unless he would lighten the country's defence commitments.

"Our opponents in the West and in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) maintain that there is an imbalance in Europe favouring the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact," he wrote.

"But for the individual Soviet citizen, for his everyday life, this imbalance takes on another meaning — and one not in our favour...it is this imbalance that must be done away with, achieving lower military preparedness for the sake of raising the people's standard of living."

Kondrashov said the Soviet Union's relative contribution to the Warsaw Pact far outweighed that of the United States and Western military alliance NATO,

with Moscow providing a far greater proportion of aircraft, ships and other hardware.

Even making allowances for cheaper military equipment, he said, "one cannot escape the conclusion that support of military-strategic parity falls more heavily on our shoulders than on those of the West's prosperous citizens."

In disclosing the figures last week, Warsaw Pact defence ministers repeated assertions of a rough parity with NATO in military personnel but acknowledged for the first time numerical superiority in tanks, tactical missile-launchers and artillery.

It said NATO had a lead in ships, aircraft carriers and certain types of aircraft. NATO has welcomed the disclosures but disagreed with some of the criteria used.

Kondrashov said the Soviet Union maintained the bulk of its troops within Europe while the United States had only a "forward post" on the continent.

Moscow's Warsaw Pact allies, he said, could not take offence at a recognition that they were outweighed by Washington's NATO partners.

"In terms of population, economic potential and scientific and technological development, East Germany is not West Germany, Poland is not France, Czechoslovakia is not Britain, Hungary is not Italy and Bulgaria is not Canada," he wrote.



Sirimavo Bandaranaike

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Top opposition leader and former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike survived an apparent assassination attempt Sunday when three bombs were hurled at a public meeting she was addressing, authorities said.

Bandaranaike, 72, suffered minor bruises in a stampede that followed the explosions, said a member of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

A military official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said at least 38 people attending the meeting in the town of Hingurakoda, 165 kilometres northeast of Colombo, were injured. At least 14 of the injured were

Blast injures former Sri Lankan premier

taken to the hospital in serious condition, the official said.

Bandaranaike was scheduled to open her party's campaign for the Feb. 15 general elections at the meeting.

In other violence, at least eight supporters of the ruling United National Party were killed Saturday by suspected Sinhalese militants, the military official said.

The deaths took place in three towns in southern Sri Lanka, the heartland of the island nation's majority ethnic group, the Sinhalese.

Meanwhile, in the north, at least five Tamils, the country's largest minority ethnic group, were killed Saturday by Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland, the official said.

Both Sinhalese militants and Tamil rebels oppose holding general elections but for different reasons.

The Sinhalese militants have vowed to disrupt the elections as part of their anti-government campaign launched in July 1987. They are opposed to a peace accord signed by the government to persuade Tamil rebels to give up their fight for an independent homeland.

Most Tamil rebel groups accepted the accord. But the largest militia, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, rejected the plan in late 1987 and have since begun killing moderate Tamils, whom they consider traitors.

Saturday's victims were all members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, one of the Tamil groups that agreed to the government's peace formula.

They were shot and killed near the town of Attchuvell, about 300 kilometres north of Colombo, the military official said.

Sinhalese extremists say the July 29, 1987, peace accord gives the minority Tamils too many concessions.

Sinhalese make up 75 per cent of the country's 16 million people and control the government and military. Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of the population, claim they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese.

At least 8,500 people have been killed in the Tamil separatist war since it was launched in 1983. The Sinhalese extremists have been blamed for another 1,000 killings since July 1987.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

'Pakistan test-fires rockets'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan has successfully test-fired its first long-range surface-to-surface rockets. Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said Sunday. Beg, quoted by the official AFP news agency, said in a speech that two versions of the missiles with a range of 300 kilometres and 80 kilometres respectively were tested recently. He did not give a date. "These are extremely accurate systems and can carry a payload of over 500 kilograms," he told military officers at the National Defence College at Rawalpindi, near Islamabad. "These missiles, including their guidance systems, have been developed indigenously," he said. The development could signal a revival of tension between India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi warned Pakistan Friday that India would take steps to protect itself if reports of a Pakistani missile test were true.

Soviet Muslims, police clash

MOSCOW (R) — Some 200 Muslims confronted police and disrupted traffic during an illegal rally in the city of Tashkent, accusing local authorities of religious interference, the Soviet news agency TASS said Saturday. TASS said the Muslims, from throughout Central Asia, staged a three-hour street demonstration after a prayer meeting on Friday in the Uzbekistan capital's Tilla-Sheikh Mosque. "Public transport was disrupted," the agency said. "Measures were taken by police to prevent violations of public order and protect the security of citizens and the believers themselves." TASS said there were no clashes with police during the meeting or march, which were not authorised by Tashkent officials. But it was clear

the marchers had confronted police in the streets. The agency said the protesters had shouted religious slogans and complained of government interference in religious affairs in Central Asia, but gave no further details.

Soviets invite Amnesty

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said Sunday it has been invited to visit the Soviet Union for the first time in a move seen as a breakthrough by the human rights group. "We received a letter of invitation this month from the Soviet Academy of Sciences. This is a major step forward," said Amnesty spokesman Richard Roach. The visit will be Amnesty's first to the Soviet Union. Since its foundation in 1961, the London-based group had made several requests to examine the human rights situation there. No date for the trip has been set and Amnesty was still deciding which places and people it would seek Soviet permission to visit, Roach said. "Obviously one of our main objectives will be to find out what steps the government is taking to meet the concerns we have about prisoners of conscience, as well as changes in Soviet law to protect human rights and abolish the death penalty," he said.

Perez offers help to Panama

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez Saturday offered to work with the United States and all political groups in Panama to assure Panamanian elections scheduled for May mark a return to true democracy. Speaking at his first news conference since his inauguration Thursday, Perez said his relations with the Panamanian government and opposition groups could be useful in seeking reforms leading to a fair vote.

Year of the snake sends mixed signals to Asia's soothsayers

By Victoria McGlothlen

HONG KONG — Fortune tellers are doing a roaring trade as Asia awaits the arrival of the year of the snake.

Among their predictions: Political instability in Japan but no catastrophic Tokyo earthquake, more domestic turmoil in South Korea, inflation in Hong Kong and a bad time everywhere for getting married or having babies.

The snake's reign begins Feb. 6, the start of the lunar new year. Lunar years in the Chinese zodiac come in cycles of 12, each with different characteristics and a different animal as its symbol.

The snake takes over from the financially auspicious dragon, and people born under

the serpent's influence can be expected to be cautious, persevering and wise.

But astrologers warn that beneath the snake's composed exterior lurks inner turbulence and a readiness to strike — a complex package with mixed signals for fortune-tellers looking to almanacs, divining sticks and even the moon to predict the year ahead.

Kensei Suzuki, who has been telling fortunes on Tokyo streets for 35 years, said Japan's economic performance would continue at a brisk pace.

"But I think despite the appearance of peace, various unstable factors will surface in Japan's politics,"

Tessui Nanjo, a 77-year-old palm reader, said Japan would continue to face trade friction

with major powers.

"The snake will bring a year of external calm marked by internal turmoil," said Shin Nam-Yong, a South Korean fortune teller.

He predicted economic stability for South Korea — in sharp contrast to the dragon's dynamism — until September, when an unspecified dramatic event would spark a downturn.

"The internal chaos seething during the first eight months of this year will be manifested from September," Shin said. A geomancer in Hong Kong disagreed, saying a strong Earth element — natural elements are also vital ingredients in the Chinese zodiac — accompanied the snake this year. Their compatibility bodes well for the economy in

both the British colony and the world.

"Dragons like water, but last year too much Earth covered the dragon," said Sung Sui-Kwong. "Snakes are well-protected by the Earth. This will be good for the economy."

"We must be careful, though. There is also a strong metal element in the year ahead. The metal element moves money, sometimes too much, and that could create inflation."

An astrologer in Taiwan said the snake's down-to-earth influence was a good follow-up to the high-flying dragon.

"The snake should be better for the economy. People will be willing to work harder than in the dragon year when everyone was hoping for big

money," said Ho Pao-Chin, who uses the Chinese lunar calendar to tell fortunes in downtown Taipei.

Business affairs are high on the list of priorities for fortune tellers in South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong, known as the "little dragons" or "tigers" because of their surging economies.

"In the financial field we shall see some light," said Lee Siow Mong in Singapore. "It will be much better than in 1988 — make no mistake about this."

South Korea's Shin said: "If buying stocks is your game, go for the steady blue chip or banking stocks. But you would be far better off putting your money in a fixed interest-rate bank deposit."

Hong Kong's Sung said Earth- and metals-related stocks, such as properties and mining, were good bets.

Sceptics tempted to dismiss all this as mere superstition should be reminded that the year of the dragon lived up to its reputation as harbinger of disaster when hundreds died in an earthquake in southwestern China.

The quake was the mainland's worst since one that killed 250,000 in 1976 — the last dragon year.

Fortune-tellers agree snake years do not typically bring natural disasters.

In Tokyo, where many say a major earthquake of the destructive force that rocked the city in 1923 is long overdue, palm-reader Nanjo was speci-

fic: "There will be no major earthquakes."

The year of the snake is not auspicious for marriage and babies, however.

Population-planners in Peking will have a respite after last year's rush to give birth in the year of the dragon, a symbol of power and wealth to the Chinese.

Officials in Singapore, worried the snake could foil a government campaign urging couples to marry and have children, have moved to dispel superstition by publicising names of famous people born under the snake sign.

Unfortunately their list includes John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln, both U.S. presidents who were assassinated.